BLACK HAMMER
WILL EISNER
BEST NEW SERIES
JEFF LEMIRE
CAITLIN YARSKY
MALACHI WARD
MATTHEW SHEEAN
DAVE STEWART
NATE PIEKOS

"A genre-bending thriller that takes you to plenty of points in the *Black Hammer* universe, giving you whiplash as each turn of the page."

—ComicBook.com

"The *Black Hammer* universe has gotten so big and complicated that it has now entered multiverse territory. And this series ranks up there with the best multiverse stories of all time."

—COMICON

"The talent for world-building that Jeff Lemire has shown in his *Black Hammer* titles never ceases to astound me. His universe already seems as wide and varied as DC's or Marvel's, but he continually adds new settings, characters, and stories that add deeper levels."

—DC Comics News

"If you want to see what it would be like if your favorite superheroes were stripped to their human bones, struggling with everyday drama that affects their superhero-ing abilities, the world of *Black Hammer* is the place to be."

—Fanbase Press

BLACK
HAMMER

BLACK HAMMER

LIBRARY EDITION VOLUME 3

REBORN

WRITTEN BY **JEFF LEMIRE**

BLACK HAMMER: REBORN #1–#4 AND *BLACK HAMMER: REBORN* #9–#12
ART BY **CAITLIN YARSKY**
COLOR BY **DAVE STEWART**
LETTERS BY **NATE PIEKOS OF BLAMBOT®**

BLACK HAMMER: REBORN #5–#8
ART BY **MALACHI WARD** AND **MATTHEW SHEEAN**
COLOR BY **MALACHI WARD**
LETTERS BY **NATE PIEKOS OF BLAMBOT®**

INSPECTOR INSECTOR IN: THE CASE OF THE ELECTRIC BOY PARTS 1–4
ART, COLORS, AND LETTERS BY **RICH TOMMASO**

CHAPTER BREAKS BY **CAITLIN YARSKY**

CHAPTER DESIGN PAGES BY **JEFF LEMIRE** WITH **DAVE STEWART, JILL THOMPSON, FIONA STEPHENSON, DAVE JOHNSON, MALACHI WARD** AND **MATTHEW SHEEAN** (CHAPTERS 5–8), **AARON CONLEY, ANDREA MUTTI, STEFANO SIMEONE,** AND **RAÚL ALLEN.**

COVER BY **DEAN ORMSTON**

BLACK HAMMER CREATED BY
JEFF LEMIRE AND DEAN ORMSTON

DARK HORSE BOOKS

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

EDITOR
DANIEL CHABON

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
CHUCK HOWITT-LEASE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
MISHA GEHR

DESIGNER
ETHAN KIMBERLING

DIGITAL ART TECHNICIAN
JOSIE WEAVER

Facebook.com/DarkHorseComics

Twitter.com/DarkHorseComics

Advertising Sales: ads@darkhorse.com

To find a comics shop in your area, visit comicshoplocator.com.

BLACK HAMMER™

© 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 171 Studios, Inc., and Dean Ormston. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics LLC, registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved. Dark Horse is part of Embracer Group. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of 171 Studios, Inc., and Dean Ormston, or Dark Horse Comics LLC. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

This volume collects *Black Hammer: Reborn* #1–#12.

Published by
Dark Horse Books
A division of Dark Horse Comics LLC
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

DarkHorse.com

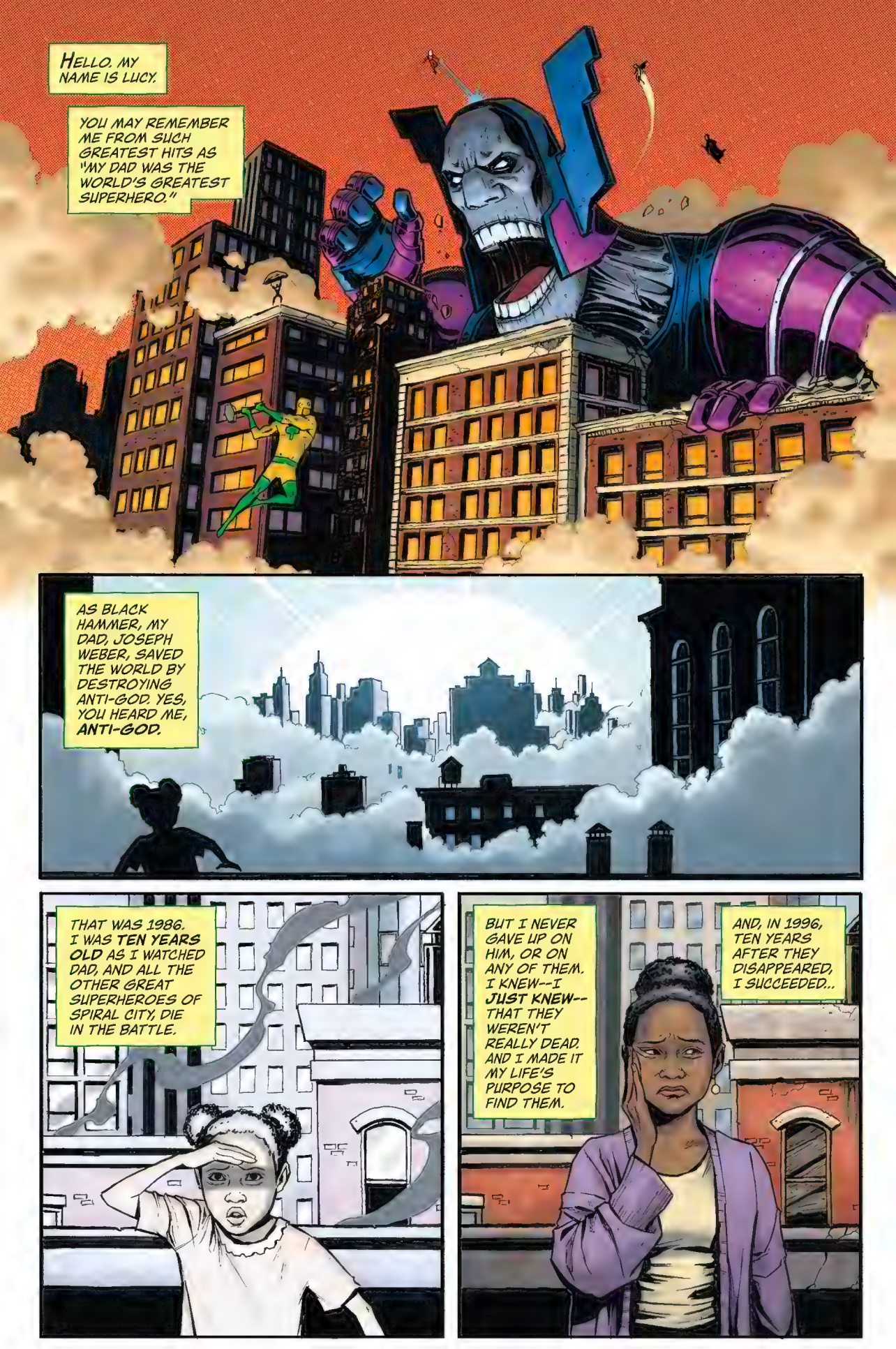
First hardcover edition: October 2023
Ebook ISBN 978-1-50672-547-5
Harcover ISBN 978-1-50672-546-8

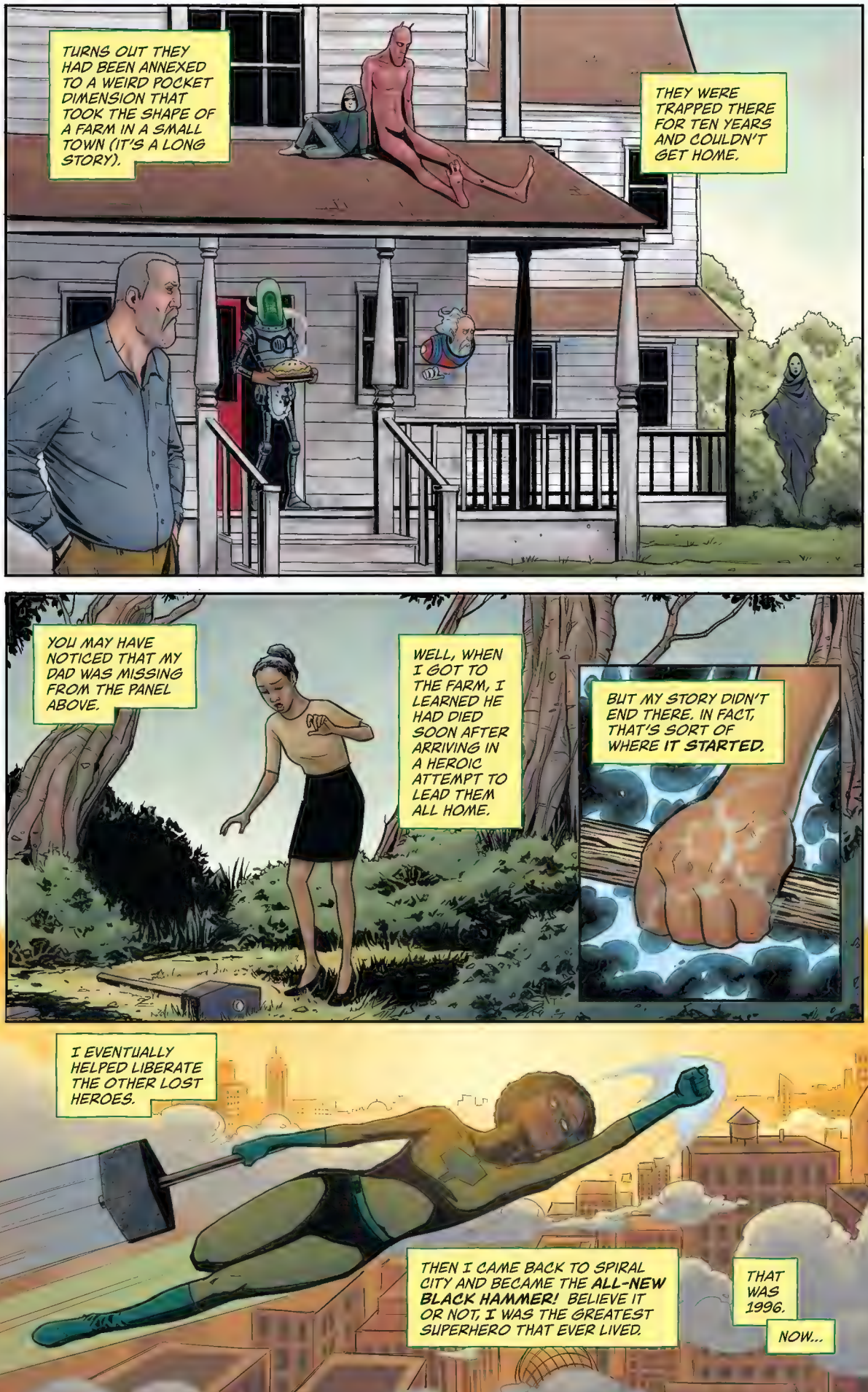
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in China

MIX
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry
FSC® C016973

NEIL HANKERSON Executive Vice President TOM WEDDLE Chief Financial Officer DALE LaFOUNTAIN Chief Information Officer TIM WIESCH Vice President of Licensing VANESSA TODD-HOLMES Vice President of Production and Scheduling MARK BERNARDI Vice President of Book Trade and Digital Sales RANDY LAHRMAN Vice President of Product Development and Sales CARA O'NEIL Vice President of Marketing KEN LIZZI General Counsel DAVE MARSHALL Editor in Chief DAVEY ESTRADA Editorial Director CHRIS WARNER Senior Books Editor CARY GRAZZINI Director of Specialty Projects LIA RIBACCHI Creative Director MICHAEL GOMBOS Senior Director of Licensed Publications KARI YADRO Director of Custom Programs KARI TORSON Director of International Licensing CHRISTINA NIECE Director of Scheduling

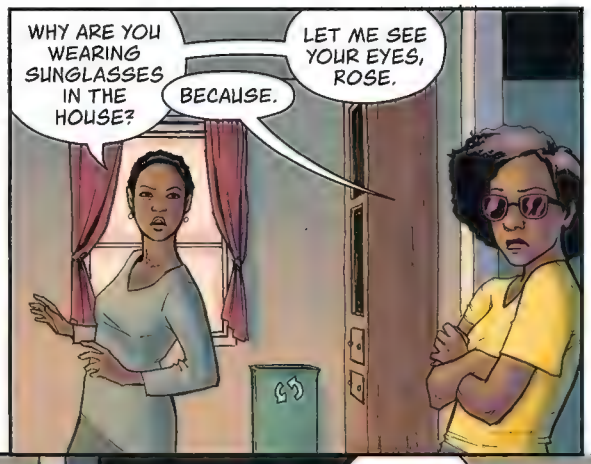
LEMIRE AFTER SIMONSON.

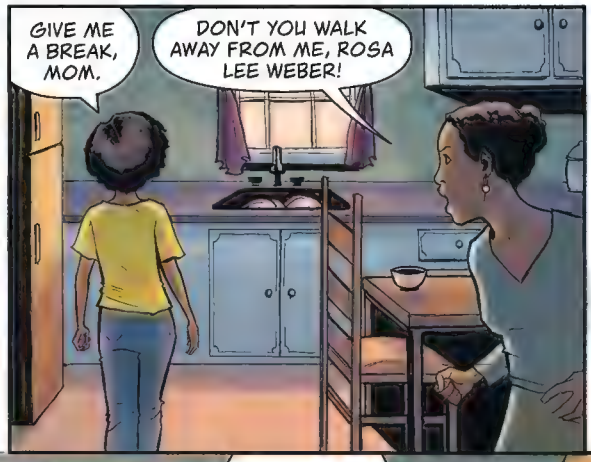

HELLO. MY NAME IS LUCY.
YOU MAY REMEMBER ME FROM SUCH GREATEST HITS AS "MY DAD WAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHERO."
AS BLACK HAMMER, MY DAD, JOSEPH WEBER, SAVED THE WORLD BY DESTROYING ANTI-GOD. YES, YOU HEARD ME, ANTI-GOD.
THAT WAS 1986. I WAS TEN YEARS OLD AS I WATCHED DAD, AND ALL THE OTHER GREAT SUPERHEROES OF SPIRAL CITY, DIE IN THE BATTLE.
BUT I NEVER GAVE UP ON HIM, OR ON ANY OF THEM. I KNEW--I JUST KNEW-- THAT THEY WEREN'T REALLY DEAD. AND I MADE IT MY LIFE'S PURPOSE TO FIND THEM.
AND, IN 1996, TEN YEARS AFTER THEY DISAPPEARED, I SUCCEEDED...


TURNS OUT THEY HAD BEEN ANNEXED TO A WEIRD POCKET DIMENSION THAT TOOK THE SHAPE OF A FARM IN A SMALL TOWN (IT'S A LONG STORY).
THEY WERE TRAPPED THERE FOR TEN YEARS AND COULDN'T GET HOME.
YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT MY DAD WAS MISSING FROM THE PANEL ABOVE.
WELL, WHEN I GOT TO THE FARM, I LEARNED HE HAD DIED SOON AFTER ARRIVING IN A HEROIC ATTEMPT TO LEAD THEM ALL HOME.
BUT MY STORY DIDN'T END THERE. IN FACT, THAT'S SORT OF WHERE IT STARTED.
I EVENTUALLY HELPED LIBERATE THE OTHER LOST HEROES.
THEN I CAME BACK TO SPIRAL CITY AND BECAME THE ALL-NEW BLACK HAMMER! BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I WAS THE GREATEST SUPERHERO THAT EVER LIVED.
THAT WAS 1996.
NOW...

TWENTY YEARS LATER...

GET YOUR ASS DOWN HERE, OR YOU'RE GOING TO MISS THE BUS AGAIN!
MOM, YOU SWORE.
NO, I DIDN'T.
YOU SAID THE AY-ES-ES WORD.
ENOUGH, JOSEPH!
FINISH EATING, AND TURN THAT OFF, WE ARE OUT THE DOOR IN TWO MINUTES!
I NEED MONEY FOR LUNCH.
YOUR DAD GAVE YOU MONEY ON THE WEEKEND.
YEAH. THAT WAS THE WEEKEND, MOM.


WHY ARE YOU WEARING SUNGLASSES IN THE HOUSE?
BECAUSE.
LET ME SEE YOUR EYES, ROSE.


GIVE ME A BREAK, MOM.
DON'T YOU WALK AWAY FROM ME, ROSA LEE WEBER!

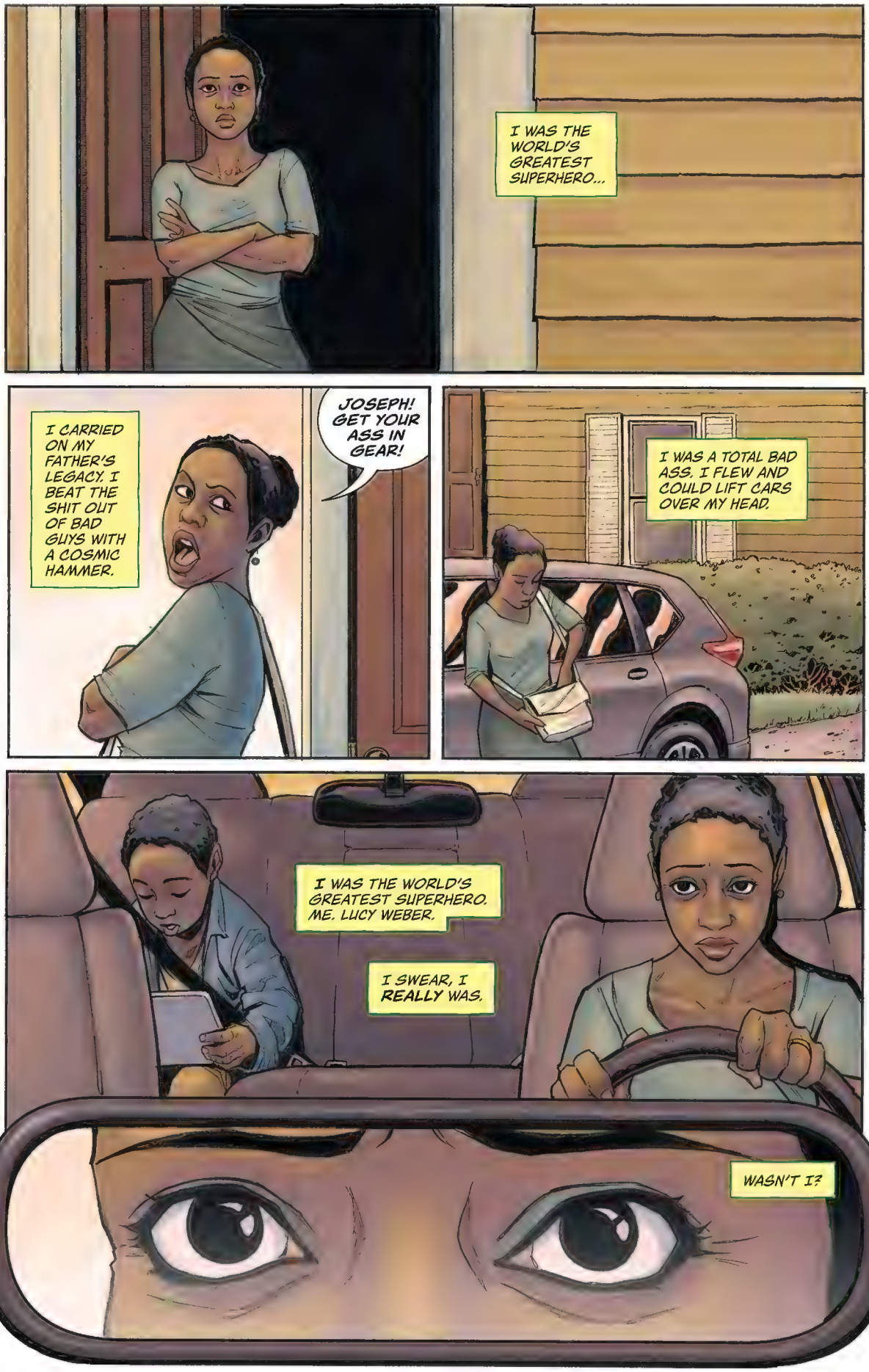
HAVE YOU SEEN MY PANTS? THE GREY ONES?
DAD! GROSS! PUT SOME CLOTHES ON!

I'M TRYING TO.
THEY'RE HANGING DOWNSTAIRS! COME ON, JOE, WE HAVE TO GO NOW!
TWO MINUTES! I JUST WANT TO FINISH THIS EPISODE.

NOW, JOSEPH!

JESUS, MOM, RELAX.
DON'T START!
AND I WANT YOU HOME AFTER SCHOOL. UNDERSTAND?
YEAH, WHATEVER.
BYE, SWEETIE. I MIGHT BE A BIT LATE, I HAVE THAT CAMPBELL MEETING.
DID YOU SEE HER?
ROSE?
YES, ELLIOT, ROSE, OUR DAUGHTER. DID YOU LOOK AT HER THIS MORNING?
YEAH, I DON'T KNOW. SHE SEEMED FINE. WHY?

I DON'T KNOW...I THINK MAYBE SHE'S ON SOMETHING.
YOU'RE JUST BEING PARANOID, LUCE.
NO, I'M NOT. YOU THINK SHE'S AN ANGEL, BUT--
STOP WORRYING. SHE'S JUST BEING FIFTEEN. YOU WERE PROBABLY THE SAME WAY WHEN YOU WHERE HER AGE.
WE CAN TALK LATER. MAYBE TAKE-OUT TONIGHT?
SURE.


I WAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHERO...
I CARRIED ON MY FATHER'S LEGACY. I BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF BAD GUYS WITH A COSMIC HAMMER.
JOSEPH! GET YOUR ASS IN GEAR!
I WAS A TOTAL BAD ASS. I FLEW AND COULD LIFT CARS OVER MY HEAD.
I WAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHERO. ME. LUCY WEBER.
I SWEAR, I REALLY WAS.
WASN'T I?

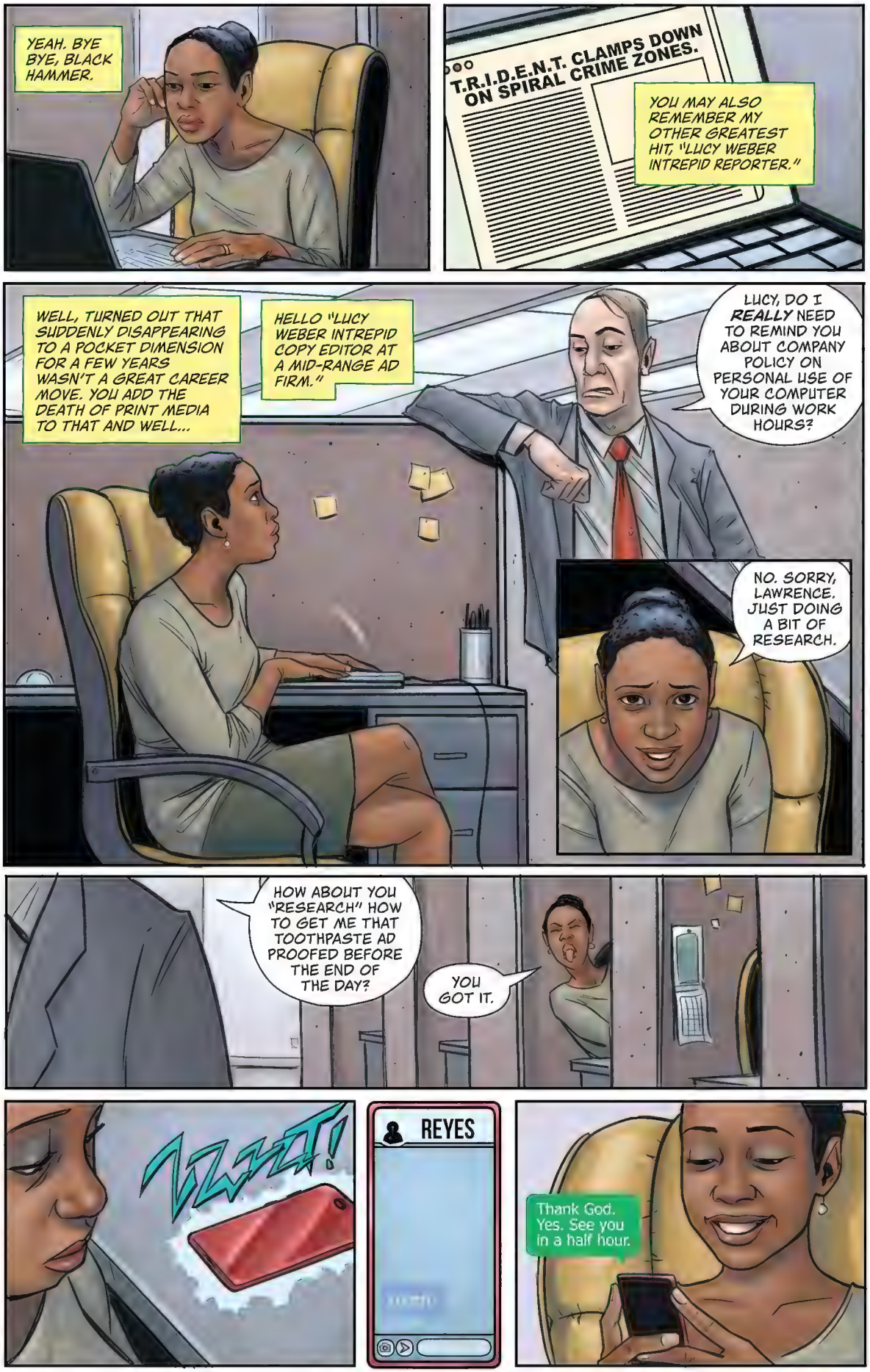
1996.
HAHA!
OPEN
THIS IS MY LAST WARNING! YOU WILL OPEN ALL THE CELLS IN SPIRAL ASYLUM THIS MINUTE AND RELEASE EVERYONE...
...OR I'LL UNLEASH MY POWER!
--THE POWER OF BLACK HOLE!
POLICE
AND THIS IS MY LAST WARNING...
...REMOVE THAT HELMET AND GET DOWN ON THE GROUND WITH YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD, OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO OPEN FIRE!
WHA--?
IDIOTS! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCEPT OF THE POWER I WIELD?!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE AND NO HOPE! THE AGE OF HEROES IS LONG PAST--THERE IS NO ONE TO STOP ME!
YEAH... ABOUT THAT--

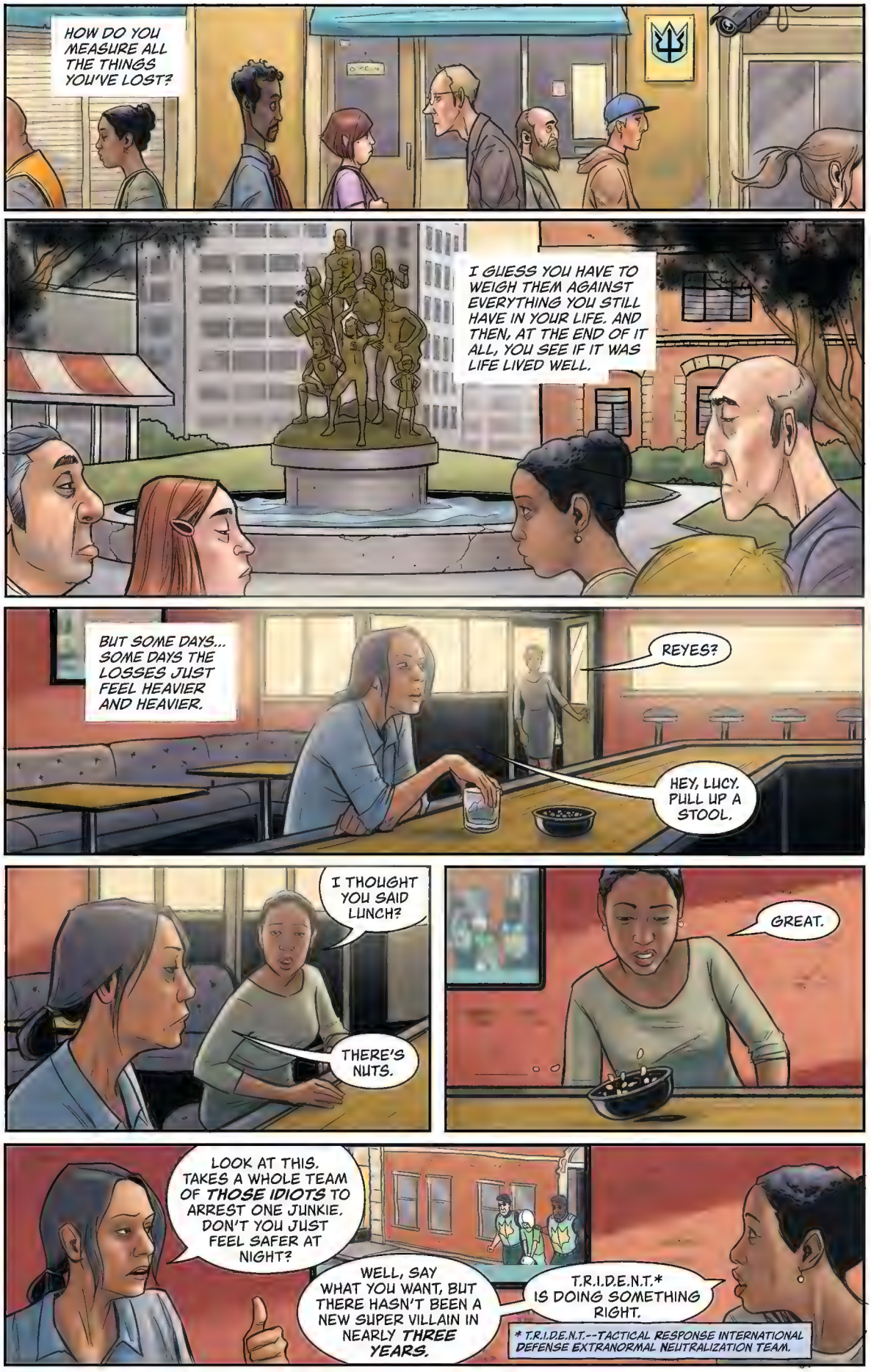
BLACK HOLE, MEET BLACK HAMMER.
NOW PLAYING
GIDEON FALLS
KRAKOOM
WHAT?! NO--NO! THERE IS NO MORE BLACK HAMMER! HE'S DEAD! ALL OF THE HEROES ARE DEAD!
NOT ANY MORE.
OH, AND BY THE WAY, YOUR NAME IS SORT OF GROSS, IT'S NOT DOING YOU ANY FAVORS.

FORGET IT! YOU'VE PASSED THE EVENT HORIZON! YOU'RE GOING INTO MY BLACK HOLE, BLACK HAMMER!
11 AM TO 12 AM THURS
HOT DOGS
PRIZES
UGH, SEE? GROSS.
GOURMET DELI
LET'S SEE HOW FUNNY YOU ARE WITHOUT THE HAMMER!
ACTUALLY... YOU KNOW WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT?
SZZZRKK

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN. GO WHERE NO LIGHT CAN SURVIVE! GO BEYOND DEATH! GO TO THE HOLE!
--HURK!
WHA-- WHAT DID YOU--?! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO--?!
SHRACK
SORRY, YOUR LITTLE SCIENCE PROJECT IS NO MATCH FOR THE HAMMER.

AND LET THIS BE A WARNING TO ANY OTHER SUPERVILLAINS, WOULD-BE COSMIC DESPOTS, SUPER TERRORISTS, AND GENERALLY NASTY SONS OF BITCHES OUT THERE--
THE DAYS OF SPIRAL CITY BEING YOUR PLAYGROUND AND PUNCHING BAG ARE OVER.
BLACK HAMMER IS BACK, AND THIS CITY IS UNDER MY PROTECTION NOW.
OH, SORRY ABOUT THE BAD LANGUAGE.
IT'S OKAY. I THOUGHT YOU SOUNDED LIKE A TOTAL BADASS. CAN I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
SURE.
THANKS! YOU ARE THE BEST. TOTALLY MY FAVORITE NEW HERO.
BYE, BLACK HAMMER!


YEAH. BYE BYE, BLACK HAMMER.
T.R.I.D.E.N.T. CLAMPS DOWN ON SPIRAL CRIME ZONES.
YOU MAY ALSO REMEMBER MY OTHER GREATEST HIT, "LUCY WEBER INTREPID REPORTER."
WELL, TURNED OUT THAT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARING TO A POCKET DIMENSION FOR A FEW YEARS WASN'T A GREAT CAREER MOVE. YOU ADD THE DEATH OF PRINT MEDIA TO THAT AND WELL...
HELLO "LUCY WEBER INTREPID COPY EDITOR AT A MID-RANGE AD FIRM."
LUCY, DO I REALLY NEED TO REMIND YOU ABOUT COMPANY POLICY ON PERSONAL USE OF YOUR COMPUTER DURING WORK HOURS?
NO. SORRY, LAWRENCE. JUST DOING A BIT OF RESEARCH.
HOW ABOUT YOU "RESEARCH" HOW TO GET ME THAT TOOTHPASTE AD PROOFED BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY?
YOU GOT IT.
VZZZT!
REYES
Thank God. Yes. See you in a half hour.


HOW DO YOU MEASURE ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE LOST?
I GUESS YOU HAVE TO WEIGH THEM AGAINST EVERYTHING YOU STILL HAVE IN YOUR LIFE. AND THEN, AT THE END OF IT ALL, YOU SEE IF IT WAS LIFE LIVED WELL.
BUT SOME DAYS... SOME DAYS THE LOSSES JUST FEEL HEAVIER AND HEAVIER.
REYES?
HEY, LUCY. PULL UP A STOOL.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID LUNCH?
THERE'S NUTS.
GREAT.
LOOK AT THIS. TAKES A WHOLE TEAM OF THOSE IDIOTS TO ARREST ONE JUNKIE. DON'T YOU JUST FEEL SAFER AT NIGHT?
WELL, SAY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT THERE HASN'T BEEN A NEW SUPER VILLAIN IN NEARLY THREE YEARS.
T.R.I.D.E.N.T.* IS DOING SOMETHING RIGHT.
* T.R.I.D.E.N.T.--TACTICAL RESPONSE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE EXTRANORMAL NEUTRALIZATION TEAM.

BULLSHIT. YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT, LUCE. I KNOW YOU DON'T. THOSE ASSHOLES ARE THE SUPER VILLAINS, YOU ASK ME.
WE USED TO BE SOMETHING.
WE USED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, LUCY. DON'T YOU MISS IT?
HONESTLY, AMANDA, I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
I HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT. SPEAKING OF WHICH, I TAKE IT THIS WASN'T JUST A SOCIAL CALL?
YEAH, I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT EITHER. USUALLY GET THERE AFTER ABOUT THE FOURTH DRINK.
BUT THEN EACH MORNING I WAKE UP AGAIN AND REALIZE THAT INSTEAD OF DOING REAL POLICE WORK...
...I HAVE TO GO OUT AND SPY ON PEOPLE'S CHEATING HUSBANDS FOR THEM, JUST TO MAKE MY RENT.
SHIT.
YEAH.

THOCK!
JESUS.
THIS WAY!
HOLY SHIT.

WHAT THE FUCK?

CLEAR THE AREA! ALL CITIZENS, CLEAR THE AREA IMMEDIATELY!

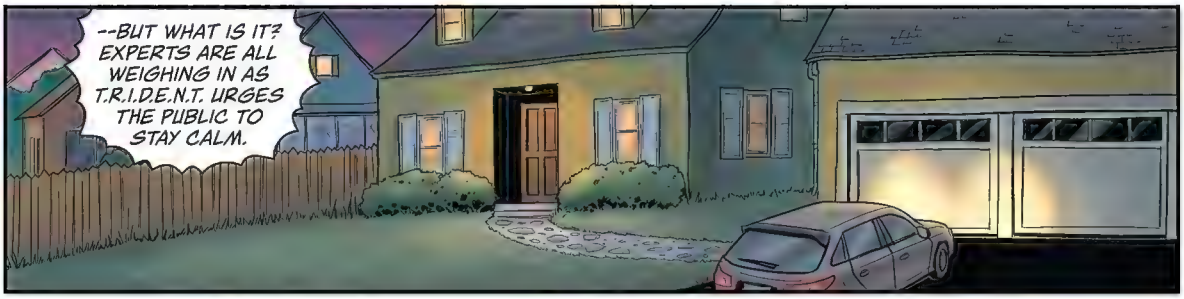
skreeech

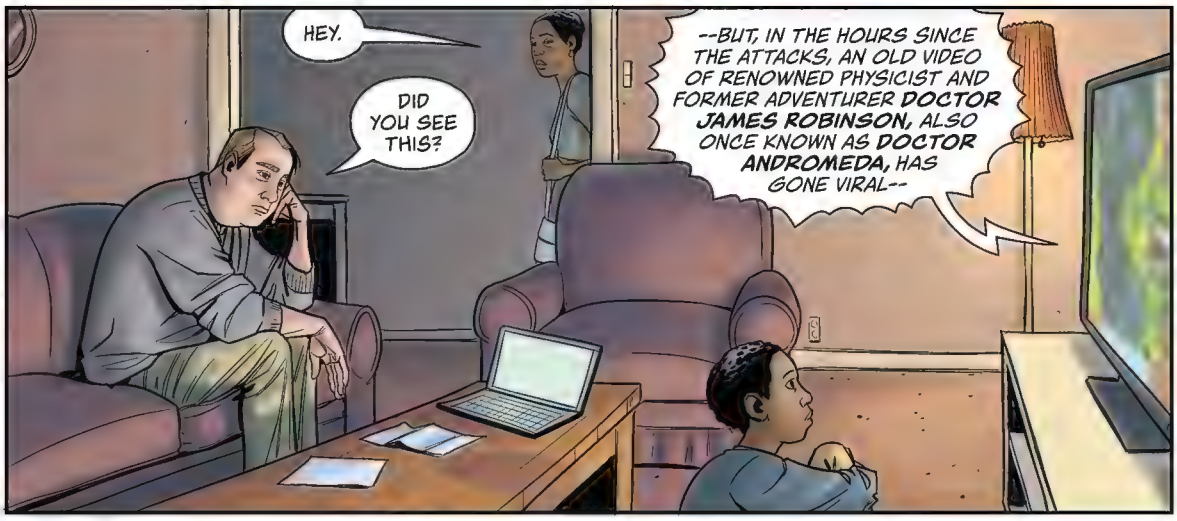
THIS IS NOW A RESTRICTED ZONE! T.R.I.D.E.N.T. SECURED. CLEAR THE AREA.

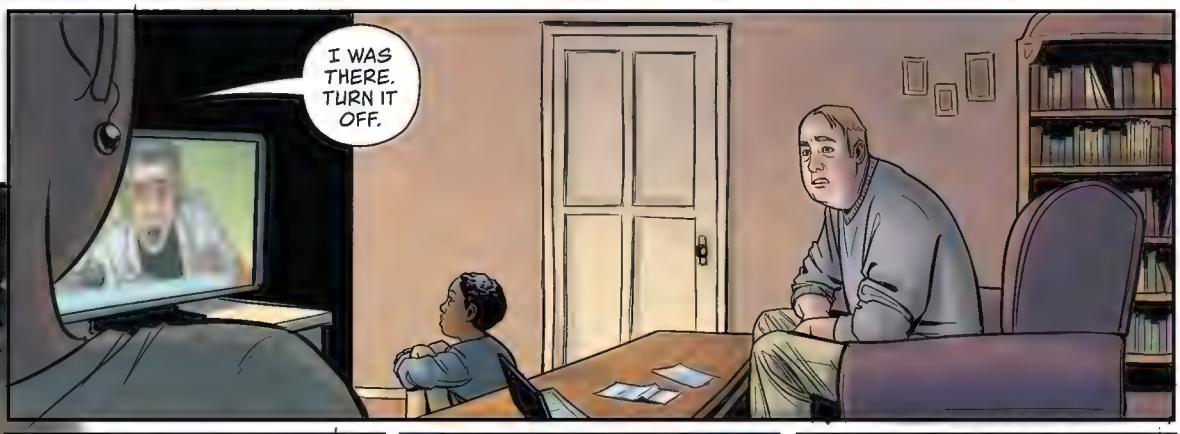
MOVE AWAY! MOVE AWAY NOW!

FUCK THAT!

COME ON, AMANDA.
WHAT?! ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME!? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WALK AWAY FROM THAT?!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? THEY HAVE IT COVERED.
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?! WELL, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO, LUCY!
IT'S NOT MY JOB ANYMORE.
BULLSHIT! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE!
YOU KNOW, LUCY! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS!


--BUT WHAT IS IT? EXPERTS ARE ALL WEIGHING IN AS T.R.I.D.E.N.T. URGES THE PUBLIC TO STAY CALM.

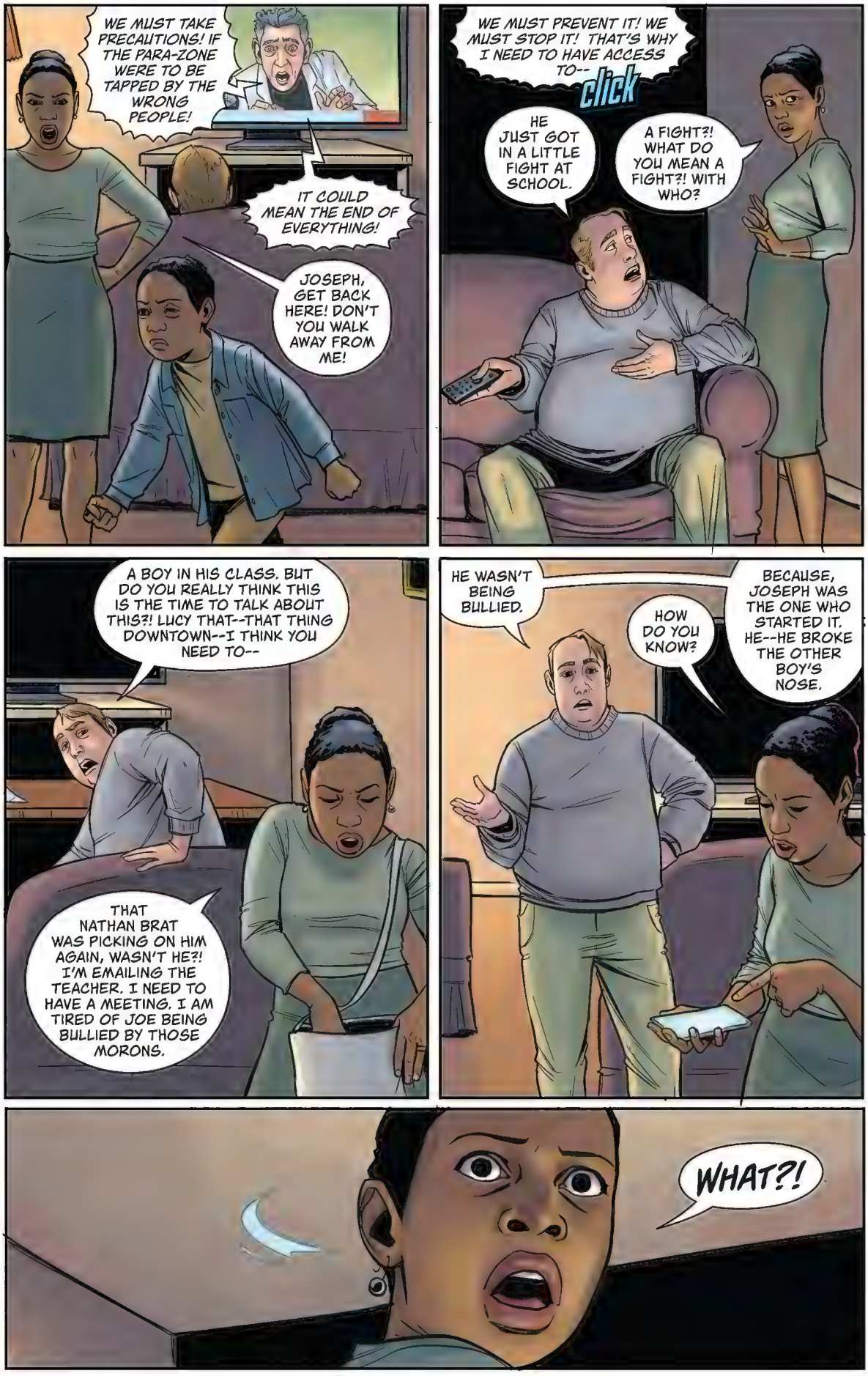

HEY.
DID YOU SEE THIS?
--BUT, IN THE HOURS SINCE THE ATTACKS, AN OLD VIDEO OF RENOWNED PHYSICIST AND FORMER ADVENTURER **DOCTOR JAMES ROBINSON,** ALSO ONCE KNOWN AS **DOCTOR ANDROMEDA,** HAS GONE VIRAL--


I WAS THERE. TURN IT OFF.

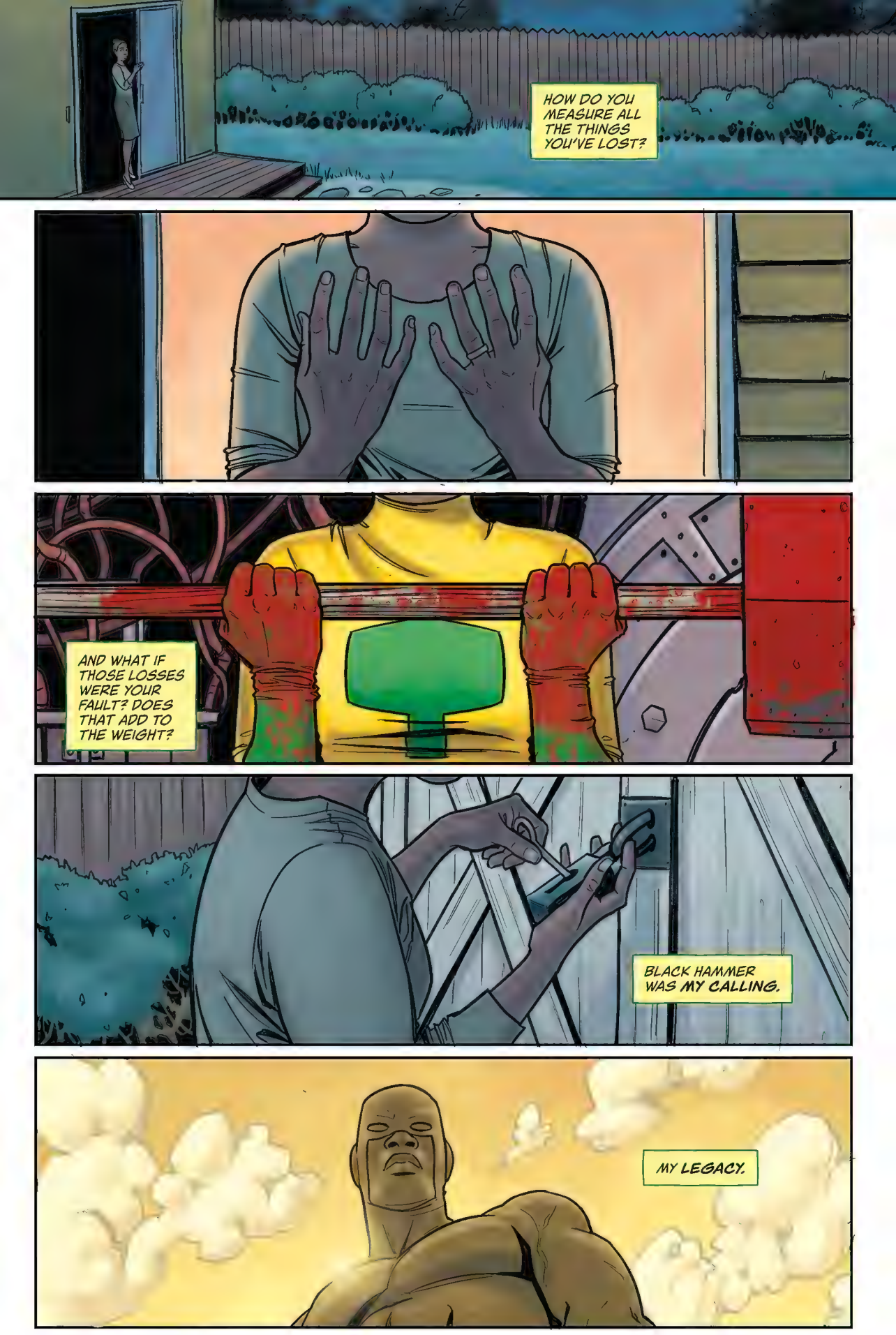
WHERE'S ROSE?
WHAT ***DO YOU MEAN*** YOU WERE THERE?!

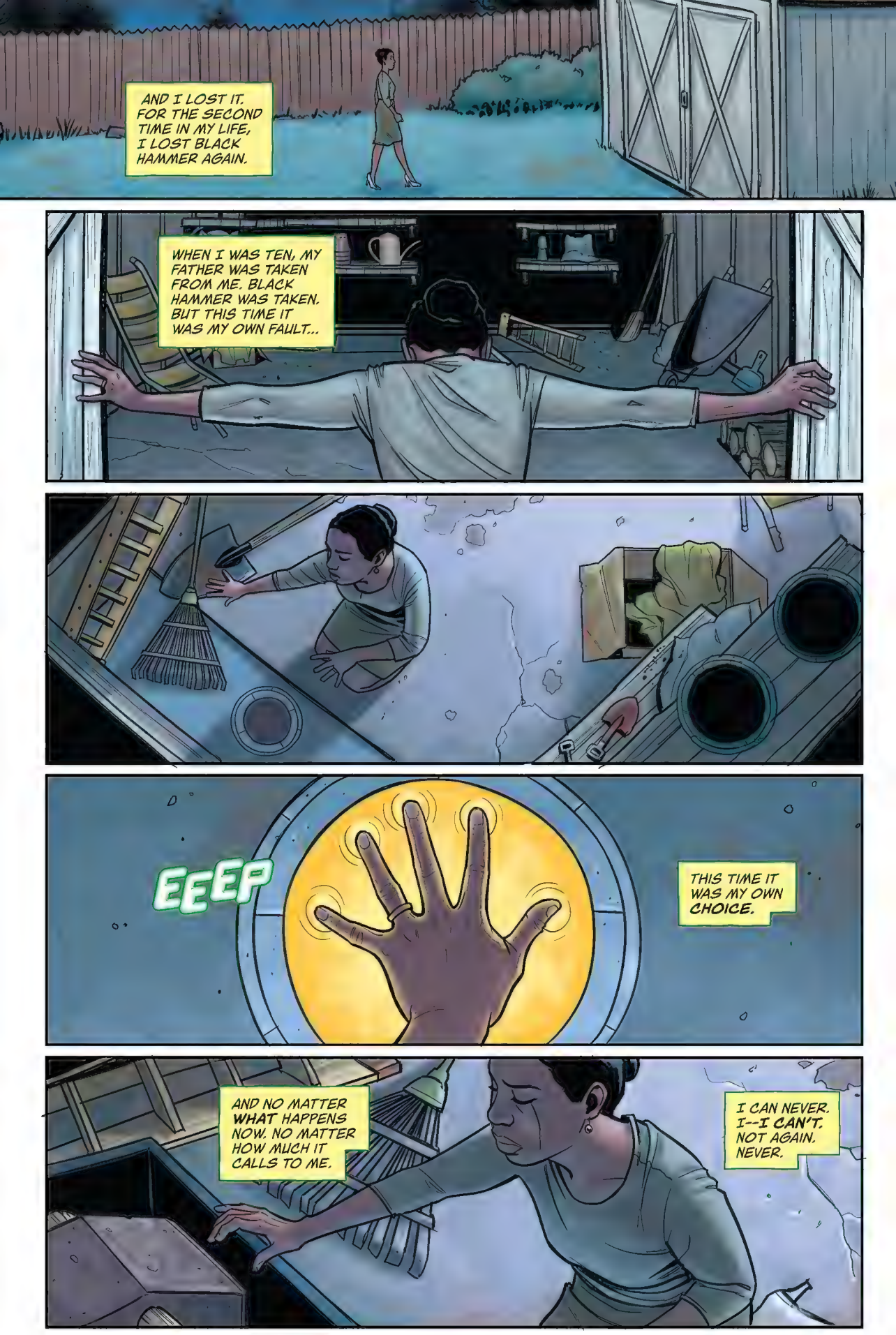
I TOLD HER I WANTED HER HOME ***RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL,*** ELLIOT!
--I AM TELLING YOU! IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE REPEATS THE WORK I DID! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE UNLOCKS THE PARA-ZONE!

JOSEPH! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
NOTHING.


WE MUST TAKE PRECAUTIONS! IF THE PARA-ZONE WERE TO BE TAPPED BY THE WRONG PEOPLE!
IT COULD MEAN THE END OF EVERYTHING!
JOSEPH, GET BACK HERE! DON'T YOU WALK AWAY FROM ME!
WE MUST PREVENT IT! WE MUST STOP IT! THAT'S WHY I NEED TO HAVE ACCESS TO--
click
HE JUST GOT IN A LITTLE FIGHT AT SCHOOL.
A FIGHT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN A FIGHT?! WITH WHO?
A BOY IN HIS CLASS. BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT THIS?! LUCY THAT--THAT THING DOWNTOWN--I THINK YOU NEED TO--
THAT NATHAN BRAT WAS PICKING ON HIM AGAIN, WASN'T HE?! I'M EMAILING THE TEACHER. I NEED TO HAVE A MEETING. I AM TIRED OF JOE BEING BULLIED BY THOSE MORONS.
HE WASN'T BEING BULLIED.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE, JOSEPH WAS THE ONE WHO STARTED IT. HE--HE BROKE THE OTHER BOY'S NOSE.
WHAT?!

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER. I THINK YOU NEED TO DEAL WITH THIS THING--THIS ATTACK, IT--
T.R.I.D.E.N.T. HAS IT UNDER CONTROL.
IF THIS ATTACK IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE--I THINK YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY HERE.
RESPONSIBILITY, ELLIOT?
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS THEN?
WHAT IS--?
LUCY, I CAN EXPLAIN. IT'S NOT--
LUCY!
I WANT YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE. TAKE WHAT YOU NEED FOR THE WEEK AND GO, I'LL PACK UP THE REST LATER.


HOW DO YOU MEASURE ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE LOST?
AND WHAT IF THOSE LOSSES WERE YOUR FAULT? DOES THAT ADD TO THE WEIGHT?
BLACK HAMMER WAS MY CALLING.
MY LEGACY.


AND I LOST IT. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN MY LIFE, I LOST BLACK HAMMER AGAIN.
WHEN I WAS TEN, MY FATHER WAS TAKEN FROM ME. BLACK HAMMER WAS TAKEN. BUT THIS TIME IT WAS MY OWN FAULT...
EEEP
THIS TIME IT WAS MY OWN CHOICE.
AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS NOW. NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT CALLS TO ME.
I CAN NEVER. I--I CAN'T. NOT AGAIN. NEVER.

NEVER.
NEVER.
NEVER.

I WILL NEVER BECOME BLACK HAMMER AGAIN.

THIS WAY--JUST UP HERE THERE'S A GAP.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
HEARD MAGGIE AND THAT OTHER BITCH HEATHER TALKING ABOUT IT IN SCHOOL. THEY SAID THEY SNUCK IN LAST NIGHT.
THEY ARE FULL OF SHIT, ROSE. NO WAY THEY HAVE THE BALLS TO GO IN.
MAYBE NOT, BUT THEY WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE FENCE. SO DO WE HAVE THE BALLS OR NOT?
I DON'T KNOW. I HEARD THERE'S CRAZY SHIT IN THERE. LIKE MONSTERS AND STUFF.
THERE'RE NO MONSTERS. JUST WEIRD GRAVITY AND STUFF. IT'LL BE COOL. I'LL PROTECT YOU, PROMISE.

COME ON, IT'S GOING TO BE TRIPPY AS FUCK. I WANT TO SEE IT.

JUST KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR T.R.I.D.E.N.T.

HOLY SHIT!

THIS IS FUCKED UP.

COME ON. LET'S DO THEM BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER IN.

I *REALLY* DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

FINE. I'LL DO YOURS TOO.

ROSE!

COME ON!

YEAH. TOTALLY FUCKED UP. IT'S AMAZING.

SANITATION

ROSE!
ROSE, ARE YOU COMING FOR--
ROSE?
HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR SISTER, JOE?
=NOPHFF=
IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?
bzzzz
COME ON...WHERE ARE YOU?
YES.

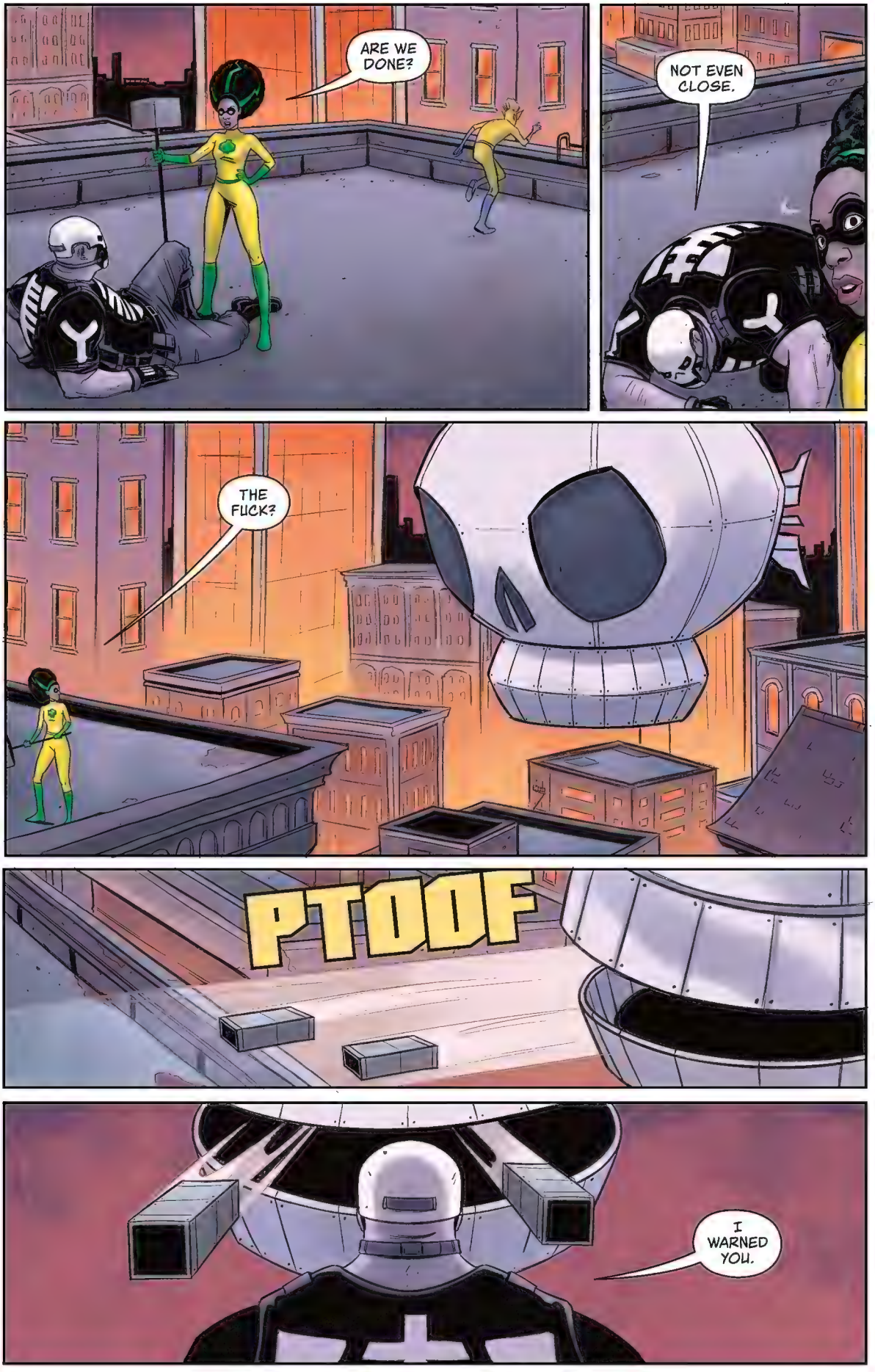
MOM
bzzzz
UH-- ROSE--
WHAT?
MONSTERS!
IS-- IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?
YES.
RUN!

TWENTY YEARS AGO.
RUN!
I AM!
HE'S UP THERE. WE GOT THAT ASSHOLE. WE FINALLY GOT HIM, LUCE.
PUT THE GUN AWAY, AMANDA...YOU WON'T NEED IT.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I'M SURE.
JUST KEEP YOUR MEN BACK.
I GOT HIM.

ST-STOP!
I GIVE UP!
YOU HAD YOUR CHOICE. YOU CHOSE TO ROB THOSE PEOPLE... HURT THEM.
NOW I HURT YOU.
YOU'RE NOT HURTING ANYONE, SKULLDIGGER.
NOT ANYMORE.

KNEW YOU'D COME EVENTUALLY. BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK. WE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE HERE.
SORRY. YOU AND I ARE NOWHERE NEAR THE SAME SIDE.
WE BOTH WANT THE SAME THING.
YEAH, AND YOU MURDER TO GET IT.
YOUR FATHER MURDERED ANTI-GOD! THIS IS NO DIFFERENT. JUST A DIFFERENT SCALE.
DON'T EVEN. LIGHTNING ROD IS NO ANTI-GOD, DIGGER.
YOU KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO, AND SO DO I. I TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE WAY OUT POWERED AND YOU SHOULD MAKE IT EASY. YOU REFUSE AND FIGHT BACK, AND MAYBE GET A FEW LUCKY SHOTS IN. THEN I BRING DOWN THE HAMMER AND THAT'S THAT.
SO...WHY DON'T WE JUST SKIP TO THE "THAT'S THAT" PART?

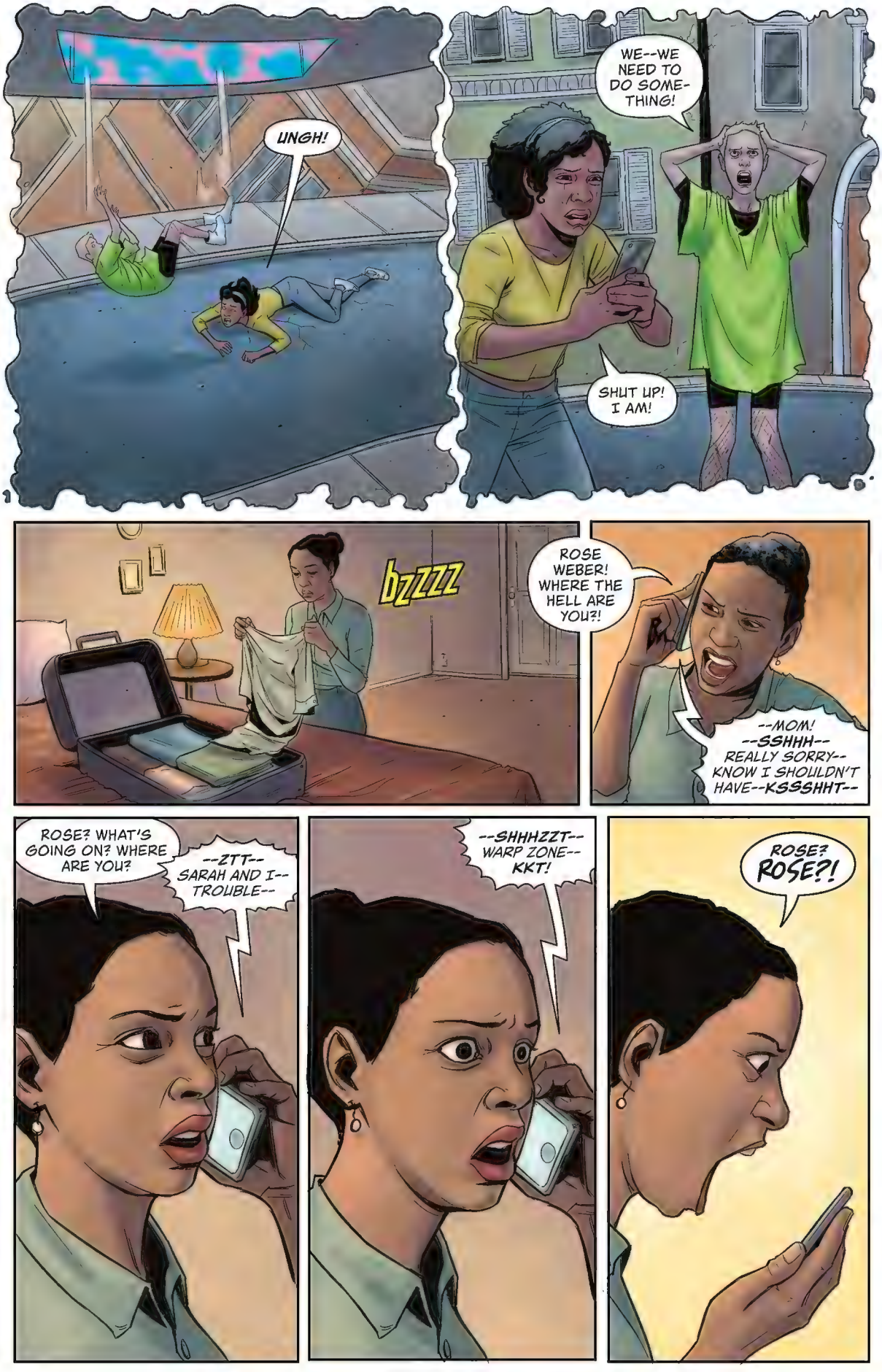
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING. I DO KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO.
IN FACT, I'VE BEEN PLANNING ON IT FOR A LONG TIME.
EEP!
SO, LET'S JUST CUT THE SHIT AND GET ON WITH IT.
UNGH!
THAT WAS YOUR ONE LUCKY SHOT, DICK HEAD. NOW I'M JUST PISSED.


ARE WE DONE?
NOT EVEN CLOSE.
THE FUCK?
PTOOF
I WARNED YOU.

THWOOP
CHAK
CHAK
THOSE GLOVES-- THEY'RE JUST LIKE--
UNGH!
YEAH. I KNOW.

NOW.
OH FUCK, OH FUCK, OH FUCK!
SHIT!
GET UP! GET UP, SARAH!
CHOOM CHOOM
CHOOM
DO NOT MOVE! YOU ARE TRESPASSING IN A T.R.I.D.E.N.T. RESTRICTED AREA! YOU ARE BOTH UNDER ARREST FOR VIOLATING A CURFEW ZONE!

UNDER ARREST?! WE'RE ABOUT TO GET EATEN!
THIS AREA IS EXTREMELY VOLATILE, T.R.I.D.E.N.T. IS NOT LIABLE FOR ANY INJURIES ACCRUED WITHIN--
CHOMP
GO! GO!
ROSE!


UNGH!
WE--WE NEED TO DO SOME-THING!
SHUT UP! I AM!
bzzzz
ROSE WEBER! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?!
--MOM! --SSHHH-- REALLY SORRY-- KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE--KSSSHHT--
ROSE? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE ARE YOU?
--ZTT-- SARAH AND I-- TROUBLE--
--SHHHZZT-- WARP ZONE-- KKT!
ROSE? ROSE?!

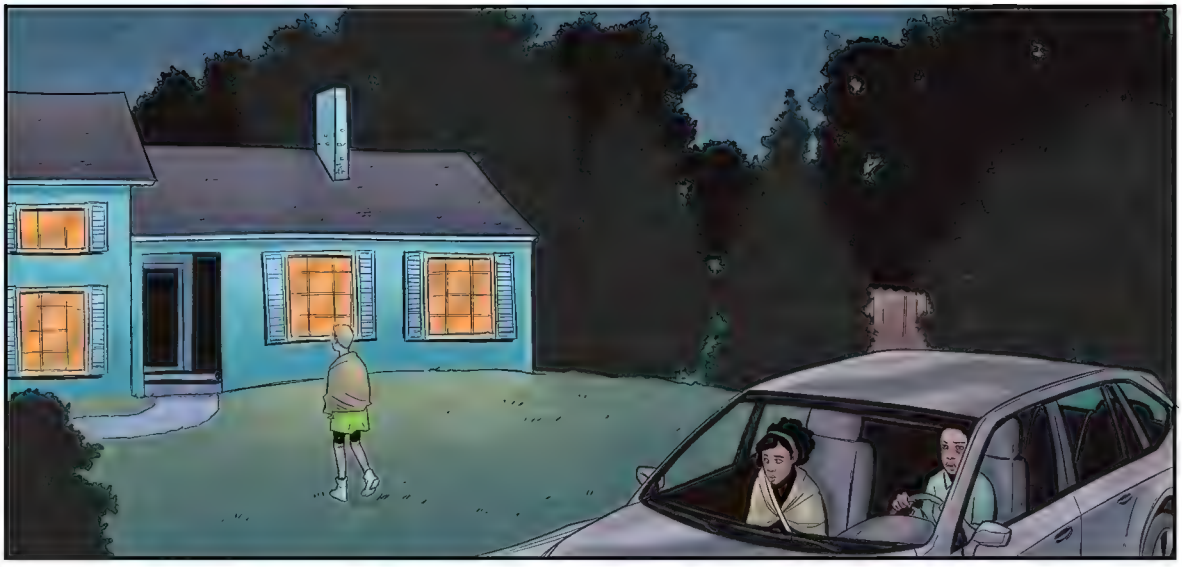
AHHHH!
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
THUNK
SHRIP
IT'S NOT SAFE HERE. COME WITH ME.

TWENTY YEARS AGO.
SHIT!
NOW...WILL YOU STOP AND LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY? WILL YOU AT LEAST GIVE ME A CHANCE?
BLAM
UNGH!
GET THE FUCK AWAY FROM HER, YOU PSYCHO PIECE OF SHIT.
YOU'RE BOTH ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THIS. I KILL, BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED TO DIE. IT'S NOT ABOUT SOME STUPID IDEA OF JUSTICE OR REVENGE--I MEAN THEY NEED TO DIE. BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T--
OH WOULD YOU JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP.

NEED HELP.
HELP? YOU THINK I'M GOING TO HELP YOU?
WASN'T-- NNGH-- TALKING TO YOU.
SHRAK
DOC ROBINSON?!
HELLO, LUCY, DEAR.
I AM SO SORRY TO DO THIS, LUCY. BUT I-I'VE SEEN THE PATTERN-- I'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS NEXT--
WHAT? I DON'T--

I AM SO SORRY.
UNGH!
I TOLD YOU--THE WRONG SIDE.
I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER ME AS I WAS LUCY--NOT HOW I WILL BE.
SHRACK
LUCY, WHAT THE FUCK JUST HAPPENED?
I-- I HAVE NO IDEA.

MRS. WEBER?
YES... OH THANK GOD!
YOUR DAUGHTER IS VERY LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, MA'AM. NORMALLY WE WOULD HOLD THEM AND POSSIBLY PROSECUTE--
--BUT IT SEEMS YOU HAVE CONTACTS AT T.R.I.D.E.N.T. THAT YOU'VE MANAGED TO CONVINCE OTHERWISE.
YES, THANK YOU, AGENT. I CAN HANDLE THIS FROM HERE.
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?!
MOM--
I JUST--I WANT TO GO HOME.



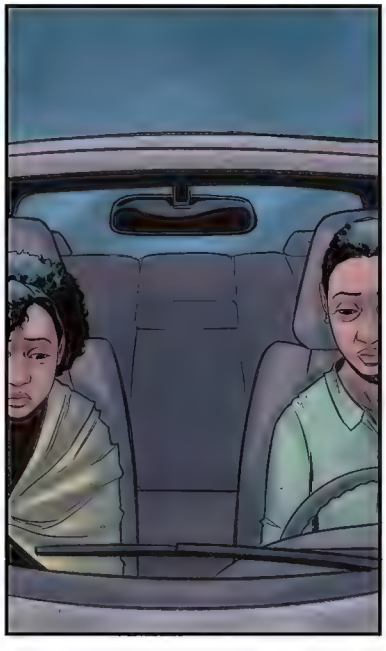
MOM, I KNOW THAT WAS--THAT WAS BEYOND STUPID.
ROSE, IF THOSE T.R.I.D.E.N.T. AGENTS HADN'T FOUND YOU IN TIME--

I JUST--I DON'T GET IT, ROSE. I MEAN, YOUR DAD AND I HAVE TRIED TO BE UNDERSTANDING. I'VE TRIED TO HELP YOU--

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU, MOM! NOT EVERYTHING IS ABOUT THE GREAT BLACK HAMMER!

WHAT?! WHAT IS IT THEN? I MEAN YOU ALMOST GOT YOURSELF KILLED TONIGHT! AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ON.

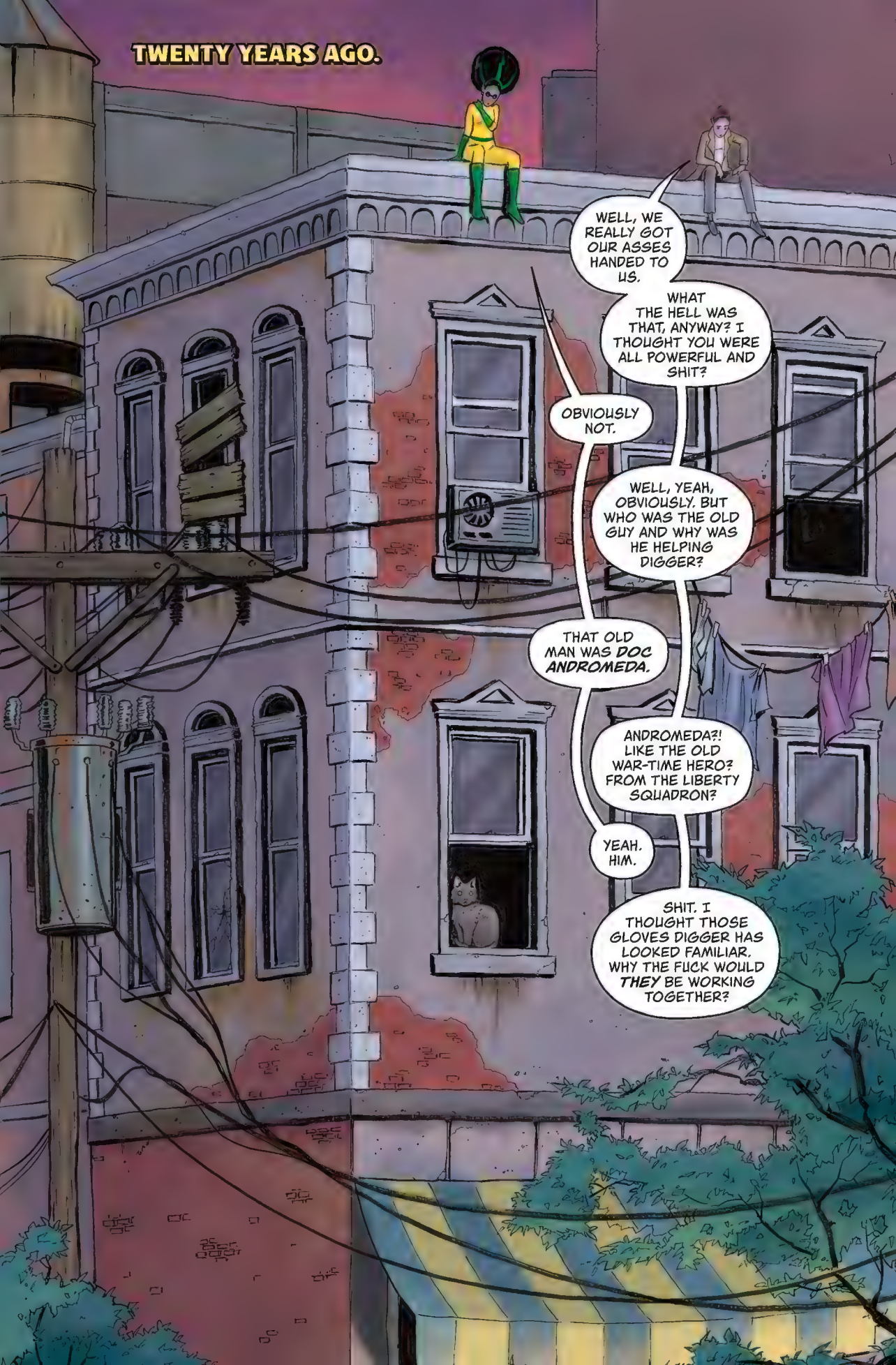
I MEAN--IT'S LIKE YOU JUST WANT TO HURT YOURSELF.



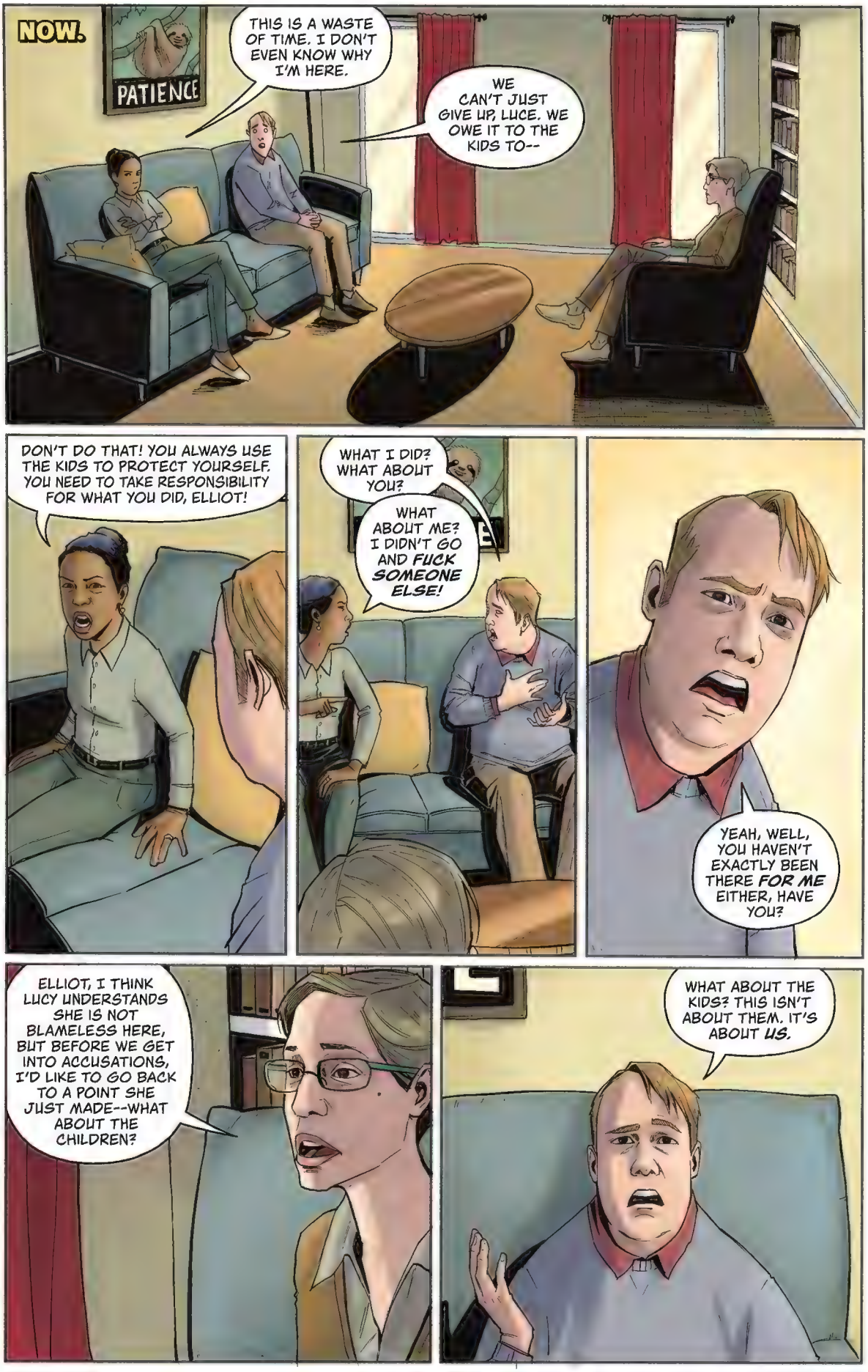
I DON'T WANT THAT. I JUST--
IT'S LIKE THERE'S THIS THING INSIDE ME. THIS THING I CAN *SEE*, BUT I CAN'T *GET TO.*
LIKE THIS THING *I'M SUPPOSED TO BE*--BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, AND INSTEAD I JUST FEEL LIKE HALF A PERSON.
DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE?
YES. BUT THIS IS WHAT WE ARE, ROSIE. THIS IS HOW IT *HAS TO BE.*

BUT WHAT IF IT'S NOT ENOUGH?! WHAT IF I WANT MORE?!
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE WHAT YOU WANT. AND I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T EITHER.
I'M JUST-- I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING.

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME!
NOT NOW, JOSEPH.
I HOPE SHE'S GROUNDED, MOM! I MEAN, I REALLY HOPE SHE'S NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THIS!
NO ONE'S GETTING AWAY WITH ANYTHING, BUG. BUT CUT YOUR SISTER SOME SLACK. SHE'S HAD A ROUGH NIGHT.
NOW, IT'S TIME TO GET YOU TO BED. DID YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH YET?
YES.
DID YOU REALLY?
YES! YOU CAN CHECK MY TOOTHBRUSH! IT'S WET!


TWENTY YEARS AGO.
WELL, WE REALLY GOT OUR ASSES HANDED TO US.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT, ANYWAY? I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL POWERFUL AND SHIT?
OBVIOUSLY NOT.
WELL, YEAH, OBVIOUSLY. BUT WHO WAS THE OLD GUY AND WHY WAS HE HELPING DIGGER?
THAT OLD MAN WAS DOC ANDROMEDA.
ANDROMEDA?! LIKE THE OLD WAR-TIME HERO? FROM THE LIBERTY SQUADRON?
YEAH. HIM.
SHIT. I THOUGHT THOSE GLOVES DIGGER HAS LOOKED FAMILIAR. WHY THE FUCK WOULD THEY BE WORKING TOGETHER?

SHIT!
WHAT?!
LIGHTNING ROD!
WE FORGOT LIGHTNING ROD!
AH, DAMMIT.
I'LL GET HIM.


NOW.
PATIENCE
THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP, LUCE. WE OWE IT TO THE KIDS TO--
DON'T DO THAT! YOU ALWAYS USE THE KIDS TO PROTECT YOURSELF. YOU NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT YOU DID, ELLIOT!
WHAT I DID? WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT ABOUT ME? I DIDN'T GO AND FUCK SOMEONE ELSE!
YEAH, WELL, YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN THERE FOR ME EITHER, HAVE YOU?
ELLIOT, I THINK LUCY UNDERSTANDS SHE IS NOT BLAMELESS HERE, BUT BEFORE WE GET INTO ACCUSATIONS, I'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO A POINT SHE JUST MADE--WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?
WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS? THIS ISN'T ABOUT THEM. IT'S ABOUT US.

OF COURSE IT'S ABOUT THEM. THEY ARE ALL THAT MATTERS, ELLIOT!
PATIENCE
WHAT ABOUT ME?
WHAT?!
YOU HAVE DEVOTED YOUR WHOLE LIFE TO THE KIDS, LUCY. YOU LIVE FOR THEM.
BUT IT USED TO BE DIFFERENT. YOU USED TO BE DIFFERENT. WE USED TO--I MEAN YOU USED TO LOVE ME. BUT NOW--
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT, LUCY? IT'S CERTAINLY NORMAL TO PUT YOUR CHILDREN AHEAD OF YOUR SPOUSE AND YOURSELF, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO FIND SOME BALANCE.
THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME ELLIOT HAS MENTIONED SOME "CHANGE" IN YOUR PAST AND ALLUDED TO SOMETHING HERE--MAYBE YOU CAN SPEAK ABOUT THIS?
I'M SORRY--WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT MY PAST.
PAT
YOU KNOW WE HAVE DOCTOR PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY HERE.
ANYTHING YOU SAY WILL STAY BETWEEN US.
I GET THAT. BUT IN THIS CASE--WE JUST CAN'T.
PAT

WELL IF WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT THE PAST, THEN HOW IS SHE EVER GOING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT BEING WITH YOU HAS REALLY BEEN LIKE FOR ME.
THAT IS SO UNFAIR.
DON'T FALL FOR HIS SHIT, DOC. ELLIOT'S ALWAYS HAD AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.
YEAH? WELL THIS IS A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME ANYWAY.
LUCY, I THINK WHAT'S BEEN SAID HERE IS IMPORTANT. BUT WE ARE JUST STARTING OUR WORK TOGETHER.
NO, WE ARE FINISHED. WE WERE FINISHED THE SECOND HE DECIDED TO SLEEP WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
LUCY! DON'T-- STOP!

TWENTY YEARS AGO.
STOP!
GET--GET BACK!
KZZZTT--
:Sigh:
LOOK, JUST TELL ME WHY SKULLDIGGER WAS SO HOT TO KICK THE SNOT OUT OF YOU, AND MAYBE I'LL GO EASY ON YOU.
LOOK--ALL I DID WAS ROB A LAUNDROMAT. NO ONE EVEN GOT HURT, AND THAT PSYCHO SKULL-FUCK WAS GOING TO KILL ME!
A LAUNDROMAT? WHO ROBS A LAUNDROMAT?
I KNOW. IT WAS STUPID. BUT THE MACHINES ARE FILLED WITH COINS. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AN EASY WAY TO GET SOME CASH.
HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PAY RENT IN TWO MONTHS, AND MY LANDLORD IS GOING TO EVICT ME.

LOOK, I STASHED THE MONEY BACK ON 5th WHEN DIGGER SHOWED UP. IF I GIVE IT BACK CAN WE JUST FORGET THIS? I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
HONESTLY, THE COSTUME AND ALL OF IT--I WAS PLANNING ON BEING A HERO, NOT A VILLAIN, BUT I JUST--WELL, I'VE HAD A SHITTY YEAR. MY GIRLFRIEND LEFT. MY MOM PASSED AWAY IN JUNE. IT'S JUST BEEN--
WHAT ARE YOUR POWERS? JUST THOSE LITTLE STATIC SHOCK THINGS?
LIGHTNING FINGERS.
PLEASE DO NOT CALL THEM THAT.
LOOK, I'LL--I'LL CHECK WITH THE COPS. IF YOU HAVE NO RECORD, AND YOU GIVE THE MONEY BACK, I GUESS I CAN FORGET ABOUT THIS.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THAT MEANS TO ME!
I--I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF LOOKED UP TO YOU.

LOOK, YOU GOTTA FORGET THE COSTUME STUFF. NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT CUT OUT FOR IT.
AND THE "LIGHTNING FINGERS" THING IS JUST--WELL I THINK THE WORLD CAN DO WITHOUT IT, YOU KNOW?
I GUESS. YEAH.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME ANYWAY?
LIGHTNING ROD.
NO, I MEAN YOUR REAL NAME.
ELLIOT. I'M--I'M ELLIOT.
NICE TO MEET YOU, ELLIOT.

NOW.
LUCY! PLEASE!
FUCK OFF, ELLIOT.
PLEASE, LUCE. DON'T DO THIS. I--LOOK, THIS LAST YEAR HAS NOT BEEN GREAT. YOU KNOW THAT. AND I--WHAT I DID--IT WAS AWFUL. AND I CAN NEVER EXPECT YOU TO FORGIVE ME BUT--
I AM ALWAYS LETTING YOU OFF THE HOOK, ELLIOT. YOU GIVE ME THOSE PUPPY DOG EYES AND THAT SAD SACK LOOK, AND I AM ALWAYS GIVING YOU A PASS. BUT NOT THIS TIME.
THIS TIME YOU NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR SHIT, AND DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.
BUT--WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES? I MEAN WE CAN'T BREAK UP. NOT FOR REAL.
I MEAN, LUCE--WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY KNOWS YOU.
YOU KNEW ME. AND THE PROBLEM IS YOU STILL WANT ME TO BE WHO I WAS, EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW I CAN'T.
NOT EVER AGAIN.

YOU'RE WRONG. I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE WHO YOU WERE. I JUST WANT TO BE A BIGGER PART OF WHO YOU ARE NOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I DO KNOW WHY YOU CAN'T BE BLACK HAMMER ANYMORE. AND I LOVE YOU EVEN MORE BECAUSE OF IT.
...
WELL, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE FUCKED THE SECRETARY THEN.
KA-THOOM

LUCE, IT'S JUST LIKE--
GET JOSEPH FROM SCHOOL AND TAKE HIM HOME. MAKE SURE ROSE COMES RIGHT HOME, TOO! STAY THERE!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WHERE ARE--
JUST GET THE KIDS, ELLIOT! DO IT!

I SHOULD BE THE ONE RACING HOME. I SHOULD TURN THIS CAR AROUND RIGHT NOW AND GO TO MY CHILDREN JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER PARENT IN SPIRAL CITY IS DOING RIGHT NOW.

I SHOULD... BUT I CAN'T.

SOME THINGS ARE BIGGER THAN THE PAST. BIGGER THAN THE PRESENT.

SOME THINGS ARE BIGGER THAN ALL OF US. SO BIG THEY HAVE A GRAVITY OF THEIR OWN.

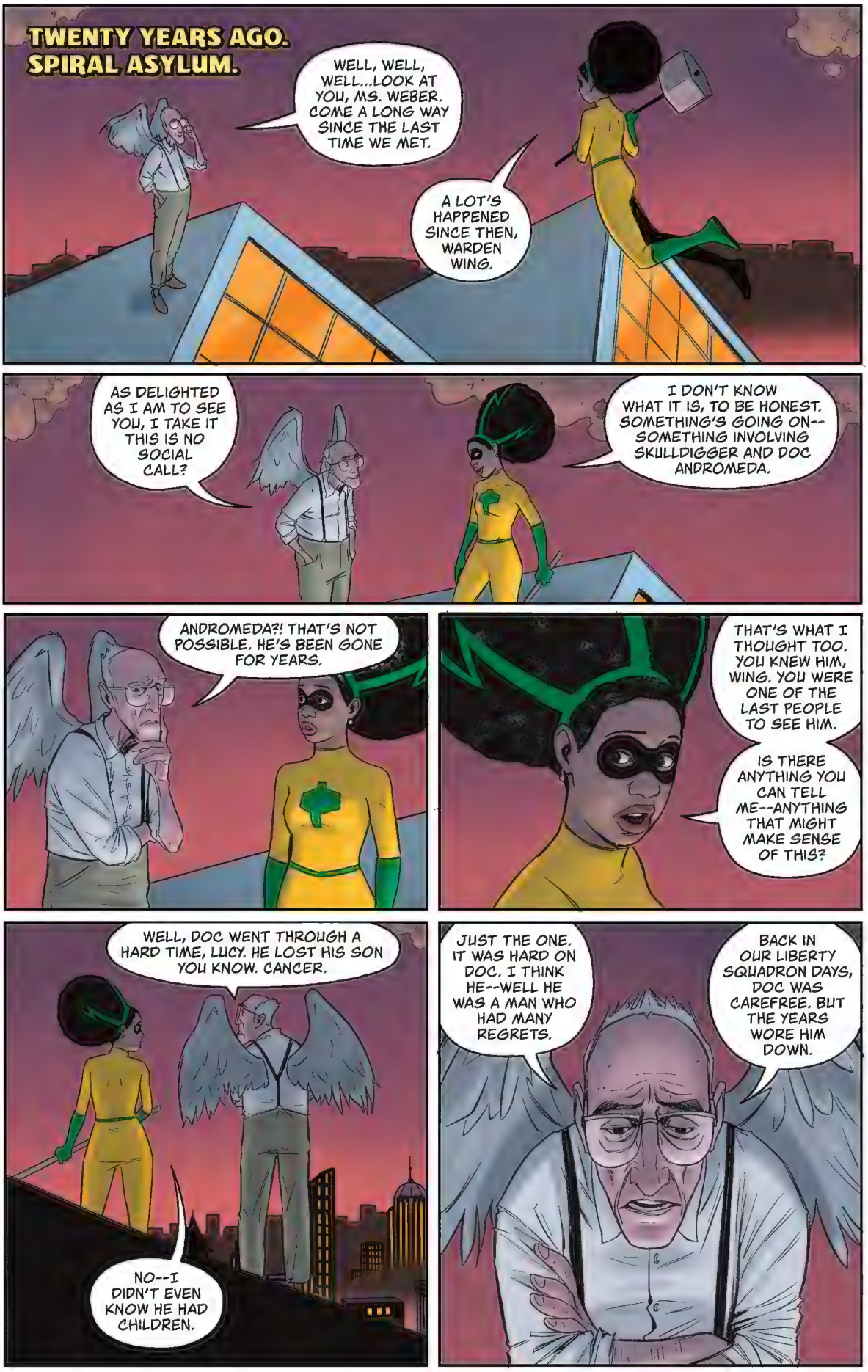
I TRY TO TELL MYSELF THAT THIS IS NOT MY FIGHT. NOT MY PROBLEM. NOT ANYMORE.

I THINK ALL OF THESE THINGS AS I START DOWN THE STREET.

I DON'T MAKE A CONSCIOUS CHOICE. I DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT WHERE I AM GOING...I JUST DO IT.

THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M INSIDE. I'M HOME.
HI, DADDY.

"I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER...
"REMEMBER ME AS I WAS, LUCY--NOT HOW I WILL BE.
"AS I WAS.
"AS I WAS."


TWENTY YEARS AGO.
SPIRAL ASYLUM.
WELL, WELL, WELL...LOOK AT YOU, MS. WEBER. COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE LAST TIME WE MET.
A LOT'S HAPPENED SINCE THEN, WARDEN WING.
AS DELIGHTED AS I AM TO SEE YOU, I TAKE IT THIS IS NO SOCIAL CALL?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, TO BE HONEST. SOMETHING'S GOING ON--SOMETHING INVOLVING SKULLDIGGER AND DOC ANDROMEDA.
ANDROMEDA?! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. HE'S BEEN GONE FOR YEARS.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT TOO. YOU KNEW HIM, WING. YOU WERE ONE OF THE LAST PEOPLE TO SEE HIM.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL ME--ANYTHING THAT MIGHT MAKE SENSE OF THIS?
WELL, DOC WENT THROUGH A HARD TIME, LUCY. HE LOST HIS SON YOU KNOW. CANCER.
NO--I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD CHILDREN.
JUST THE ONE. IT WAS HARD ON DOC. I THINK HE--WELL HE WAS A MAN WHO HAD MANY REGRETS.
BACK IN OUR LIBERTY SQUADRON DAYS, DOC WAS CAREFREE. BUT THE YEARS WORE HIM DOWN.

BUT WHEN I LAST SAW HIM, HE WAS TRYING TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF. HE WAS GOING BACK TO THE STARS. FAR AS I KNEW, THAT'S WHERE HE STILL WAS--OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.
NOW, SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT SKULLDIGGER, LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM, I CAN'T SEE HIM AS DOC ROBINSON'S SIDEKICK. THAT JUST DOESN'T FIT.
YOU'RE TELLING ME.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE OF MORE HELP.
I CAN KEEP MY EAR TO THE WALLS AROUND HERE, SEE IF ANY OF THE SCUMBAGS HAVE HEARD ANYTHING.
SPEAKING OF SCUM BAGS I'M SUPPOSED TO LOCK UP, I WAS EXPECTING SOME LAME-ASS CALLED LIGHTNING ROD YESTERDAY, BUT HE NEVER SHOWED.
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU, BLACK HAMMER?
I CUT HIM SOME SLACK. HE WAS HARMLESS.
TSK. YOU YOUNGSTERS ARE ALL THE SAME. BLEEDING HEARTS.
BETTER A BLEEDING HEART THAN NO HEART AT ALL, RIGHT?
IF YOU SAY SO, KID.

KA-SHRACK
JESUS!
STAY HERE, DOC!
SHRACK
HELLO, LUCY. I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME.

--T.R.I.D.E.N.T. CONTINUES TO IMPLORE CITIZENS TO STAY CALM. WHILE THE ATTACKS ON SPIRAL CITY MAY SEEM SIMILAR TO THE ATTACKS WE EXPERIENCED **TWENTY YEARS AGO,** THEY SAY THERE IS STILL NO PROOF OF ANY CONNECTION--
AND DESPITE THE STRANGENESS OF THE PHENOMENA, NO EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE IN ANY **REAL DANGER.**
MOM! DID YOU SEE IT? DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED DOWN-TOWN?!
I DID. BUT WHY DON'T WE TURN THAT OFF, OKAY?
WHERE'S ROSE?! I TOLD YOU TO MAKE SURE SHE **CAME HOME,** ELLIOT!
I'M RIGHT HERE, MOM. CHILL.
OH, THANK GOD.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL GET GOING--
LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR A BIT?
REALLY?
I JUST--I WANT US TO ALL BE TOGETHER RIGHT NOW.
I GUESS WE SHOULD FIGURE OUT SOMETHING FOR DINNER.
PIZZA!
NO ONE IS DELIVERING PIZZA TONIGHT, JOSEPH. THE WORLD IS ENDING!

THE WORLD IS NOT ENDING, ROSE. DON'T SCARE YOUR BROTHER.
I'M NOT SCARED!
BESIDES, IF ANYTHING REALLY BAD HAPPENED, MOM WOULD PROTECT US.
RIGHT, MOM?
...
--No, Joseph...she will not.

Your mother will not protect you...She will not protect anyone...
The world *is* about to end. I have seen it...it is the pattern of things.

ONE HOUR BEFORE THE END.
Hello... Lucy. I am... sorry to intrude.
Did I intrude? Or...no--no, I definitely intruded. This is when I take them.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, COLONEL?! THIS IS MY HOME YOU CAN'T JUST--CAN'T JUST POP UP LIKE THIS.
Of course I can.
IS THAT COLONEL WEIRD?! HE LOOKS SO OLD!
QUIET, JOE. LET MOM HANDLE THIS.
It is okay...I am old, Joseph. Older than I will be.

ENOUGH! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
We need to go soon. And I...will not explain everything...that's not what happens now. Now is when you prepare.
Oh...hello, Lightning Rod. Where is your costume?
MOM...WHY IS COLONEL WEIRD IN OUR LIVING ROOM?!
DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SPIRAL? THE WARP ZONES?
Of course it does...and so do you.
But first...
You will need this.
I--I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOUR HAMMER WAS GONE?!
DON'T TOUCH THAT, ROSE!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO THIS! I WANT YOU TO LEAVE. NOW!
Of course...we do leave. Together. And then we come right back here.
THIS IS SO MESSED UP! THIS IS SO MESSED UP!
Now... I suggest you grab...the hammer. It will prevent you...from being...turned inside out.
MOM!
LUCY?!
WHATEVER HAPPENS, ELLIOT, TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS!
I will see you...

...Soon.

WEIRD!

This way...it began here... remember?

WHAT? WHAT BEGAN?

Your downfall...

TWENTY YEARS UNTIL THE END.
DOC?! DOC, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? IF YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE, LET ME HELP YOU!
Tsk. YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING YET, DO YOU? SO YOUNG.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, DOC. PLEASE--
DIDN'T YOU EVER MAKE THE LINK? THE PARA-ZONE, LUCY...MY POWERS. DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT'S WHERE HE CAME FROM TOO?
SHRACK
AND THIS PLACE--FOR SOME REASON THIS IS WHERE IT'S THE THINNEST...WHERE HE'S THE CLOSEST.
I'M CLOSE, BUT THIS EXPERIMENT WAS ULTIMATELY A FAILURE. I KNOW NOW WHAT I'LL NEED TO COMPLETE IT.

WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS, WEIRD?
Because it's happening again. In Spiral City--The Warp Zones are back.
BUT IT CAN'T BE HIM. YOU KNOW THAT.
I know so much now, Lucy. The pattern...the Para-zone...it is not what I thought it was. Nothing is.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
So hard to put into words...it is just one. Just one of so many.
But first...

NINE YEARS BEFORE THE END.
JOSEPH... LIKE MY DAD.
IT'S PERFECT. HE'S PERFECT.
MOMMY!
HEY, BABY...COME HERE.
ROSIE, MEET JOSEPH.
HE'S SO TINY.
YEAH.

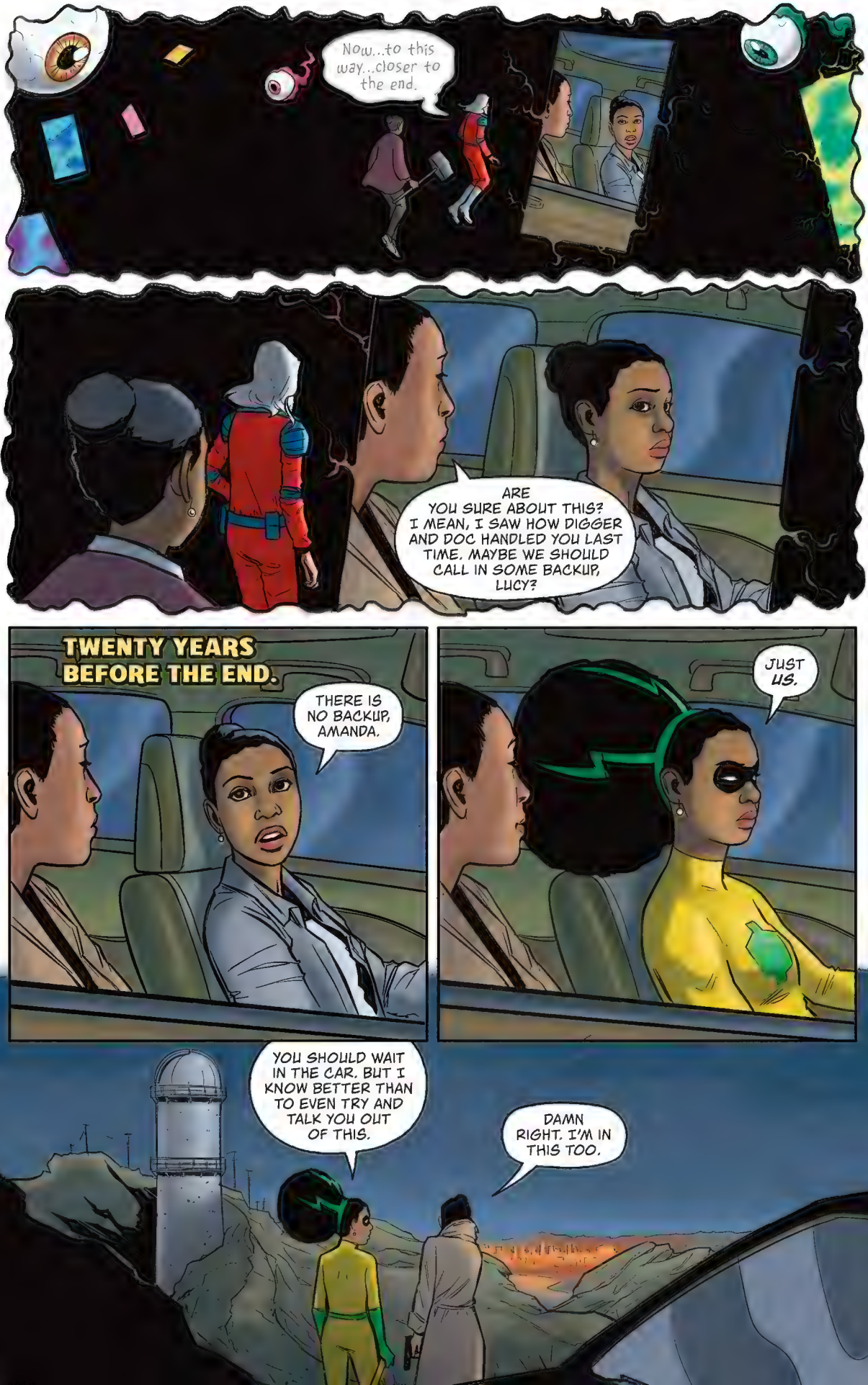
I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHY?
Because you will need to remember...
Remember it all.
STOP IT! OF COURSE, I REMEMBER! THIS IS *MY LIFE!* MINE!
No... not just yours.
ROSIE?

12

It is... their's too.

NO... PLEASE-- STOP...

STOP!
WHY? WHY ARE YOU--
Because... they are not perfect...
...but they are yours.


Now...to this way...closer to the end.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? I MEAN, I SAW HOW DIGGER AND DOC HANDLED YOU LAST TIME. MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL IN SOME BACKUP, LUCY?
TWENTY YEARS BEFORE THE END.
THERE IS NO BACKUP, AMANDA.
JUST US.
YOU SHOULD WAIT IN THE CAR. BUT I KNOW BETTER THAN TO EVEN TRY AND TALK YOU OUT OF THIS.
DAMN RIGHT. I'M IN THIS TOO.

FREEZE, ROBINSON! STEP AWAY FROM THAT--THAT *THING. NOW!*

=Sigh= YOU'RE TOO EARLY.

NOT *THIS VERSION* OF YOU, ANYWAY.

SHUT UP! NOT *ANOTHER WORD,* AND NOT ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS THAT MACHINE, OLD MAN!

REYES, WAIT--THE ATTACK IN SPIRAL, THE CRAZY WARP ZONE YOU CREATED...IT INVOLVED PARA-ENERGY. THAT WAS THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWERS, RIGHT?

INDEED.

BACK IN '45, I WAS able TO BREACH THE BARRIER OF SPACE AND TIME INTO AN EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL SPACE WE NOW REFER TO AS *THE PARA-ZONE.*

I ONLY HARNESSED A TINY AMOUNT OF THAT ENERGY TO BECOME DOCTOR ANDROMEDA. LATER IN '56, I AIDED NASA IN SENDING AN AMERICAN ASTRONAUT TO ACTUALLY ENTER THE PARA-ZONE.

COLONEL WEIRD.

YES. EXACTLY. AND AS YOU KNOW, HE WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER HIS TIME INSIDE THE PARA-ZONE. BUT THIS NEXT PART--THIS IS THE *CLASSIFIED PART*--IT IS NOT *JUST* ME OR COLONEL WEIRD WHOSE POWER IS CONNECTED TO THE PARA-ZONE.

LISTEN TO HER, DOC. IT'S OVER. I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET ANOTHER SHOT IN. THIS TIME I *TAKE YOU DOWN.*

NO. I DON'T THINK YOU WILL. YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS, LUCY.

I DON'T--

THINK, LUCY. YOU KNOW THE ANSWER... 1986. *THE CATACLYSM.*

ANTI-GOD!

BINGO.

THIS MOTHERFUCKER IS TRYING TO BRING BACK ANTI-GOD!
INDEED, DETECTIVE. WANNA WATCH?
BLAM
YOU ASSHOLE!
PUT HER DOWN! NOW!
QUIET. SHE MEANS NOTHING. I AM ALL THAT MATTERS NOW.
WHEN I CAME HERE, I FINALLY REALIZED HOW IT COULD BE DONE. THE MACHINES COULD NOT DO IT ALONE--IT WAS ME--I WAS THE KEY--

THE KEY TO ANTI-GOD. THE KEY TO THE PARA-VERSE.
SHUT IT OFF!
HE IS REBORN. HE IS REBORN AND I AM HIS DOORWAY!
DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS!
DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS!

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO-- HEROES-- HEROES DON'T KILL.

ENOUGH... NO MORE.
I WANT TO GO HOME, COLONEL.
Of course...that is exactly what we do...
FIFTEEN SECONDS UNTIL THE END.
...Now.
SHRACK
MOM!
IT'S OKAY. I'M OKAY.
LUCE...

SIX SECONDS UNTIL THE END.
COLONEL?! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
FIVE SECONDS UNTIL THE END.
I am...so sorry...Lucy. I...I love you. But...This is what I do... now.
FOUR SECONDS UNTIL THE END.
PUT THAT FUCKING RAY-GUN DOWN RIGHT NOW, YOU CRAZY SON OF A BITCH!
THREE SECONDS UNTIL THE END.
Why? You saw--you saw all of them. You know what they are.
TWO SECONDS UNTIL THE END.
SO WHAT?! SO THEY AREN'T PERFECT! BUT THEY ARE MINE!
ONE SECOND UNTIL THE END.
Exactly.

And now they are gone.
NO!
SHRACK
WHY?! WHY?!
Because... you told me to.

NO!
And so you would come back, Black Hammer. Really come back.
FUCKING KILL YOU!
No... not yet.

"First you have work to do..."
THE END

I am...so sorry...Lucy. I...I love you. But...This is what I do... now.
NO!
EEP!

EEP
EEP
EEP
WHAT THE FUCK?
EEP

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

AMANDA, I--I--

YOU HAD NO CHOICE, LUCY.

BULLSHIT! I SHOULD HAVE--I DON'T KNOW--I SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO TAKE OUT HIS MACHINE FIRST. I DIDN'T HAVE TO...

ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?! YOU HAD ***NO CHOICE.*** THAT WAS ***FUCKING ANTI-GOD, LUCY!***

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. DOC WAS IN ***THE LIBERTY SQUADRON*** FOR GOD'S SAKE. WHY WOULD HE WANT TO DO THIS? WHY WOULD ***HE*** WANT ANTI-GOD TO COME BACK? IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP. MUST BE MIND CONTROL OR SOMETHING.

IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. WE NEED TO DESTROY THIS. ALL OF IT.

WAIT--

NO! IF PEOPLE KNEW THERE WAS ***EVEN A CHANCE*** ANTI-GOD COULD ACTUALLY COME BACK, THERE WOULD BE ABSOLUTE PANIC.

WE HAVE TO DESTROY IT ALL. THE EQUIPMENT. THE OBSERVATORY.

...THE BODY.

WHAT?!

NO ONE ***NEEDS TO KNOW,*** LUCY.

I MURDERED HIM! WE CAN'T JUST--I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ***A HERO,*** AMANDA! I'M NOT SKULLDIGGER!

OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT. BUT ADMITTING TO THIS--THINK OF THE QUESTIONS. THINK OF WHAT YOU WOULD NEED TO REVEAL IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

SHIT.

OKAY, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW--

I AM RIGHT. SO USE THE HAMMER--SMASH IT OR ZAP IT OR WHATEVER.

IS THIS RIGHT? I WISH THERE WAS SOMEONE I COULD ASK FOR ADVICE. ANOTHER HERO OR--

THERE ARE NO OTHER HEROES. THE UNTEENS ARE DEAD, SKULLDIGGER IS ALL THAT'S LEFT. SHIT, EVEN SHERLOCK FRANKENSTEIN IS GONE.

SHRACK

DOC... UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES I WOULD HAVE ASKED DOC.

LUCY--

STAND BACK.

STAND BACK!

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, LUCY.
NO, AMANDA. IF I'D DONE THE RIGHT THING, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO COVER IT UP.
LUCY!

--RESPONDING TO A FIRE IN THE SPIRAL OBSERVATORY. NO OTHER DETAILS AT THIS TIME.
HSSSS!!
PICKLES?
LUCY?!
MOM, I...
YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE YOU COMING IN HERE DRESSED LIKE THAT!
SOMEONE WILL SEE YOU.
LUCY?
I MESSED UP, MOM. I REALLY MESSED UP.
OH, BABY, I'M SURE WE CAN FIX IT WHATEVER IT IS.
NOT THIS TIME, MOM.

NOW.

"...NOT THIS TIME."

--TROUBLING NEW DETAILS LEAKING TODAY FROM SOURCES INSIDE T.R.I.D.E.N.T. THAT INDICATE THE PHENOMENON, OR "OTHER SPIRAL" AS IT'S BEING CALLED, IS MOVING CLOSER TO OUR CITY BY THE HOUR AND THAT THE TWO CITIES MAY COLLIDE AS SOON AS TWO DAYS FROM NOW.

EEP! EEP!

T.R.I.D.E.N.T. SPOKESPERSON DENIED THE REPORTS AND WENT ON TO STATE THAT CITIZENS SHOULD STAY INSIDE AND STOP HOARDING FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES SO THAT EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO WHAT THEY NEED.

EEP!

EEP! EEP! EEP!

TRAFFIC AND WEATHER UP AHEAD RIGHT AFTER THIS WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS...

STOP IMMEDIATELY! THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA!
DROP THE WEAPON! STOP RIGHT--
--!!
HOLY SHIT. THAT--THAT CAN'T REALLY BE HER.
IT'S ME. AND TRUST ME, THIS WOULD BE A REALLY BAD DAY TO PICK A FIGHT.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS? CAN YOU STOP IT?
ISN'T THAT YOUR JOB?
EEP!
WE DON'T HAVE A CLUE. IT'S ANOTHER SPIRAL. I MEAN, THE CITY'S STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT IS ALMOST IDENTICAL. A FEW VARIATIONS IN THE ARCHITECTURE BUT OTHERWISE...
IT'S POPULATED. HAS ANYONE FROM THERE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE CONTACT?
EEP!
NO. WHAT'S THAT?
I DON'T KNOW YET...

BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT.

EEP!

I'M JUST ON AUTOPILOT NOW. NOT EVEN REALLY THINKING ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING OR WHY. IT'S ALL LIKE A DREAM. SURREAL.

EEp!

I JUST KEEP GOING, LET OLD MUSCLE MEMORY TAKE OVER. BECAUSE IF I STOP--IF I STOP, I'LL HAVE TO **THINK.** AND IF I HAVE TO THINK, I'LL HAVE TO FACE WHAT JUST **HAPPENED TO THEM.**

SO I FLY UP AND THEN SUDDENLY I'M ACTUALLY **FLYING DOWN.**

EEP!

EEP!

ALL I KNOW IS THIS THING WAS IN ROSIE'S ROOM.

EEP!

EEP!

ROSE.
JOE.
ELLIOT.
EEP!
EEP!
DON'T MOVE A FUCKING MUSCLE.
EEP!
EEP!
I WASN'T SURE THE BEACON WOULD TRANSMIT THAT FAR.
EEP!
EEP!
I WASN'T SURE YOU'D COME. I GUESS DOC KNEW HOW TO BUILD THEM, HUH?
CHK

YOU.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY DAUGHTER?!
UNGH!

ANSWER ME! WHY DID SHE HAVE YOUR BEACON?!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOUR GIRL. I FOUND HER IN THE WARP ZONE IN OUR SPIRAL. I SAVED HER. AND I NEEDED TO SEE YOU SO--
SHUT UP! THE LAST TIME THIS SHIT HAPPENED IT WAS DOC ROBINSON! AND WE'RE WORKING WITH HIM!
SO YOU EITHER TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHY MY FAMILY IS DEAD, OR I WILL LITERALLY KNOCK YOUR HEAD RIGHT OFF YOUR FUCKING SHOULDERS!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING. NOT REALLY. WE NEED DOC. HE'LL KNOW HOW TO STOP IT.
DOC IS DEAD. I KILLED HIM TWENTY YEARS AGO.
NO. THE DOC FROM THIS WORLD IS DEAD. OUR DOC IS STILL ALIVE. AND THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
NO TIME. WE GOTTA GO. THEY'RE HERE.
THEY? WHO?
THOOOM

WHO? WHY IT'S SHERLOCK FRANKENSTIEN AND HIS
LIBERTY SQUADRON
OF COURSE.

INSPECTOR INSECTOR in ...

THE CASE OF THE ELECTRIC BOY PART ONE

By JEFF LEMIRE & RICH TOMMASO

LIMBO. THE PLACE THAT AIN'T NO PLACE AT ALL. THE PLACE THAT IS ALL PLACES THAT ALMOST WERE.
IMBO
Bar and Lounge
Live Music
Limbo Lounge

SO LET ME FILL YOU IN, BUB, SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE TAGGING ALONG. SEE, I THOUGHT I HAD THIS PLACE ALL FIGURED OUT. THIS WAS WHERE STORIES THAT ALMOST HAPPENED ENDED UP.
Limbo Lounge

AND I HAD PRETTY MUCH ACCEPTED THE SAD FACT I AM ONE OF THOSE STORIES. INSPECTOR INSECTOR WORLD'S GREATEST BUG DETECTIVE. I WOULD'A BEEN GREAT*
TROPHY SHOPPE
* SEE BLACK HAMMER: AGE OF DOOM #7

SCHWAK!
JUMPIN' JUNE BUGS!
THAT WAS WEIRD EVEN FOR LIMBO. I SMELL TROUBLE...
STUFF COMES AND GOES IN LIMBO. STORIES ARE IMAGINED AND NEVER REALIZED, AND THEY POP UP HERE UNTIL THEY'RE FORGOTTEN AGAIN.
BUT I AIN'T NEVER SEEN A STORY POP UP LIKE THAT BEFORE...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, SHORT STUFF. DON'T TRY ANYTHING--
JUST A KID!
TAKE IT EASY, KIDDO. I AIN'T GONNA HURT YOU. YOU GOT A NAME?
MY NAME IS JOE... JOSEPH WEBER.
I THINK--I THINK I'M DEAD.
WEBER?
YEH, I SMELL TROUBLE ALL RIGHT. BUT EVEN MORE... I SMELL A MYSTERY
TO BEE CONTINUED!

TWENTY YEARS AGO.
--I SWEAR WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
YEAH, MAN, PLEASE! LET US GO!
NO.
SPLATT
REMEMBER ANYTHING NOW?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THRILLOBYTE IS INSANE, MAN! I SWEAR, I SAY ANYTHING TO YOU, AND HE WILL KILL ME!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK I'LL DO?

LAST CHANCE OR YOU JOIN YOUR FRIEND.
OKAY, OKAY, LISTEN, THRILLOBYTE IS GONNA HIT FIRST SPIRAL TRUST ON WEDNESDAY.
HE HAS SOMEONE ON THE INSIDE THAT'S GONNA SHUT DOWN THE SECURITY SYSTEM FOR HIM!
GOOD.
WHOA! HEY! I TOLD YOU WHAT YOU WANTED! YOU SAID YOU'D LET ME LIVE!
YEP. DIDN'T SAY YOU'D BE IN ONE PIECE THOUGH...

KRAKOOM
?!
FWOOSH
HRMM...

ANDROMEDA?
--COMING...
HE'S COMING.

WHO? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

I DID.

HMM, YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE. NOT AN EXACT COPY THOUGH. FASCINATING.
TSK. NO TIME FOR FURTHER STUDY, I'M AFRAID.
SHRAK
--UNGH!
NOW THEN, LAST CHANCE. TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE AND ALL OF THAT?
DON'T DO THIS. WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS.
WE CERTAINLY ARE. AND THAT IS EXACTLY THE POINT.
AH-- AH--DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T SEE A SHINY CHROME SKULL COMING?
GLNK

NOT REALLY. BUT IT DID DISTRACT YOU FROM THE LITTLE SKULL BOMBS I JUST TOSSED AT YOUR FEET.
?
BOOM!
CAN YOU WALK?
HRRRM...

?
HELLO?
SKULLDIGGER?
OH. YOU'RE UP.
FEELING ANY BETTER?

A BIT. STILL A LITTLE WOBBLY, BUT I--WELL, THANK YOU. I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE MADE IT IF YOU HADN'T--
DON'T THANK ME. EXPLAIN. HOW ARE THERE TWO OF YOU? IS THIS A MULTIPLE DIMENSION THING?
IT'S A BIT OF A COMPLICATED STORY.
I'M SMARTER THAN I LOOK.
IT'S HARD TO EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START. I--WELL, I TAKE IT YOU KNOW WHO I AM? WHO I WAS?
OF COURSE. JIM ROBINSON. DOCTOR ANDROMEDA. THE LIBERTY SQUADRON.
YES. WELL, IN RECENT YEARS I HAVE BEEN AWAY IN SPACE. EXPLORING. AND WHAT I FOUND WAS-- WELL, IT WAS BEYOND ANYTHING I COULD HAVE FATHOMED.
I LEARNED THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE.

YOU SEE, I DRAW MY POWER FROM SOMETHING CALLED THE PARA-ZONE. I THOUGHT IT ENCOMPASSED ALL OF TIME AND SPACE. BUT IT DOESN'T.
WHAT I SAW AS THE PARA-ZONE WAS ONLY ONE SIDE OF AN INFINITE PATTERN MADE OF INFINITE SIDES...INFINITE UNIVERSES, EACH LIKE OURS BUT EACH SUBTLY DIFFERENT.
SO IT IS A MULTIPLE DIMENSION THING.
I'VE SEEN STAR TREK, DOC. YOU DISCOVERED A MULTIVERSE.
WELL, ACTUALLY I PREFER TO CALL IT THE PARA-VERSE BUT-- WELL, YES.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL I DISCOVERED...
THESE INFINITE UNIVERSES ARE ALL INTERLOCKED AND ALL THE SIDES FORM A CLOSED SHAPE.
AND THERE IS SOMETHING INSIDE OF THAT SHAPE. SOMETHING THAT IS TRAPPED AT THE CENTER OF ALL THE UNIVERSES.
...ANTI-GOD.

ANTI-GOD IS DEAD.
WE ALL *THOUGHT* HE WAS. WE ALL *HOPED* HE WAS.
BUT I SAW HIM THERE--
"I SAW HIM *SLEEPING.*"
I THINK WHEN BLACK HAMMER "DESTROYED" ANTI-GOD, HE REALLY JUST SENT HIM BACK TO WHERE HE CAME FROM.
AND NOW I THINK MY DOPPELGÄNGER MEANS TO *BRING HIM BACK.*
HOW?
I DON'T KNOW YET. BUT HE WANTS SOMETHING HERE, ON OUR WORLD. YOU SEE, MY DOUBLE'S EARTH IS FROM THE UNIVERSE *CLOSEST TO OURS,* WHICH MAKES TRAVEL BETWEEN THE TWO EASIER.
I THINK WE BOTH DISCOVERED THE PARA-VERSE AT THE SAME TIME. HE SAW ME AND I SAW HIM. I HESITATED. *HE ATTACKED.*

HRMM...WELL BEST OF LUCK TO YOU, DOC. FEEL FREE TO STAY THE NIGHT IF YOU NEED TO REST.
WHAT? YOU'RE LEAVING?!
YOU'VE BEEN OUT ALL DAY. IT'S GETTING DARK. GOT WORK TO DO.
BUT--WELL, WHAT ABOUT MY DOPPELGÄNGER? AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING CONCEITED, THERE IS NO TELLING THE HARM A MAN OF MY INTELLECT AND RESOURCES COULD DO IF ALLOWED TO RUN FREE.
LISTEN, DOC, THE STREETS NEED ME. ALL THIS SPACE STUFF AND MULTIPLE WORLDS...IT'S NOT MY TERRITORY.
AND WHO ELSE IS THERE?! WHEN I LEFT, YOU WERE THE ONLY "HERO" LEFT OPERATING IN SPIRAL CITY!
LOOK, I NEED HELP, SKULLDIGGER. I NEED YOUR HELP. I MEAN DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF BUSTING THE HEADS OF PICKPOCKETS AND TWO-BIT THUGS JUST TO SEE NEW ONES POP UP THE NEXT NIGHT?
IT'S MY MISSION. MY CALLING.
WELL, DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK YOU WERE MADE FOR SOMETHING MORE, SON?

NO.
YOU CAN'T IGNORE THIS! WHAT IF THE OTHER ME *REALLY IS* TRYING TO BRING ANTI-GOD BACK?!
THAT'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE ANYWAY. NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP IT.
WELL, *I* CAN. BUT *NOT ALONE*. LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY TWO SUPER HEROES LEFT.
MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU STARTED ACTING LIKE ONE INSTEAD OF SKULKING AROUND ALLEYS *LIKE A RAT!*
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
IT'S FINE. I HAVE TOUGH SKIN. AND I USED TO BE A RAT, ACTUALLY.
WHO WAS THAT FOR?

NO ONE. NOT ANYMORE.
I--I HAD A SON TOO. I LOST HIM AS WELL.
THAT'S WHY I WENT OFF TO THE STARS. I THOUGHT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME HERE. IT'S SO EASY TO CLOSE YOURSELF OFF. GET LOST IN YOUR OWN LITTLE CRUSADES.
BUT WE HAVE A HIGHER CALLING, SKULLDIGGER. THIS WORLD NEEDS US. ALL WORLDS NEED US.
THE UNIVERSE IS MADE OF PATTERNS. MAYBE I FELL ONTO THAT ROOFTOP FOR A REASON. MAYBE YOU FOUND ME FOR A REASON.
I KNOW YOU THINK YOU ARE MEANT TO BE IN THE STREETS. BUT MAYBE YOUR WAR--ALL THE CRIMINALS AND LOW LIFES YOU'VE FOUGHT--MAYBE THAT WAS ALL JUST TO PREPARE YOU FOR THIS.

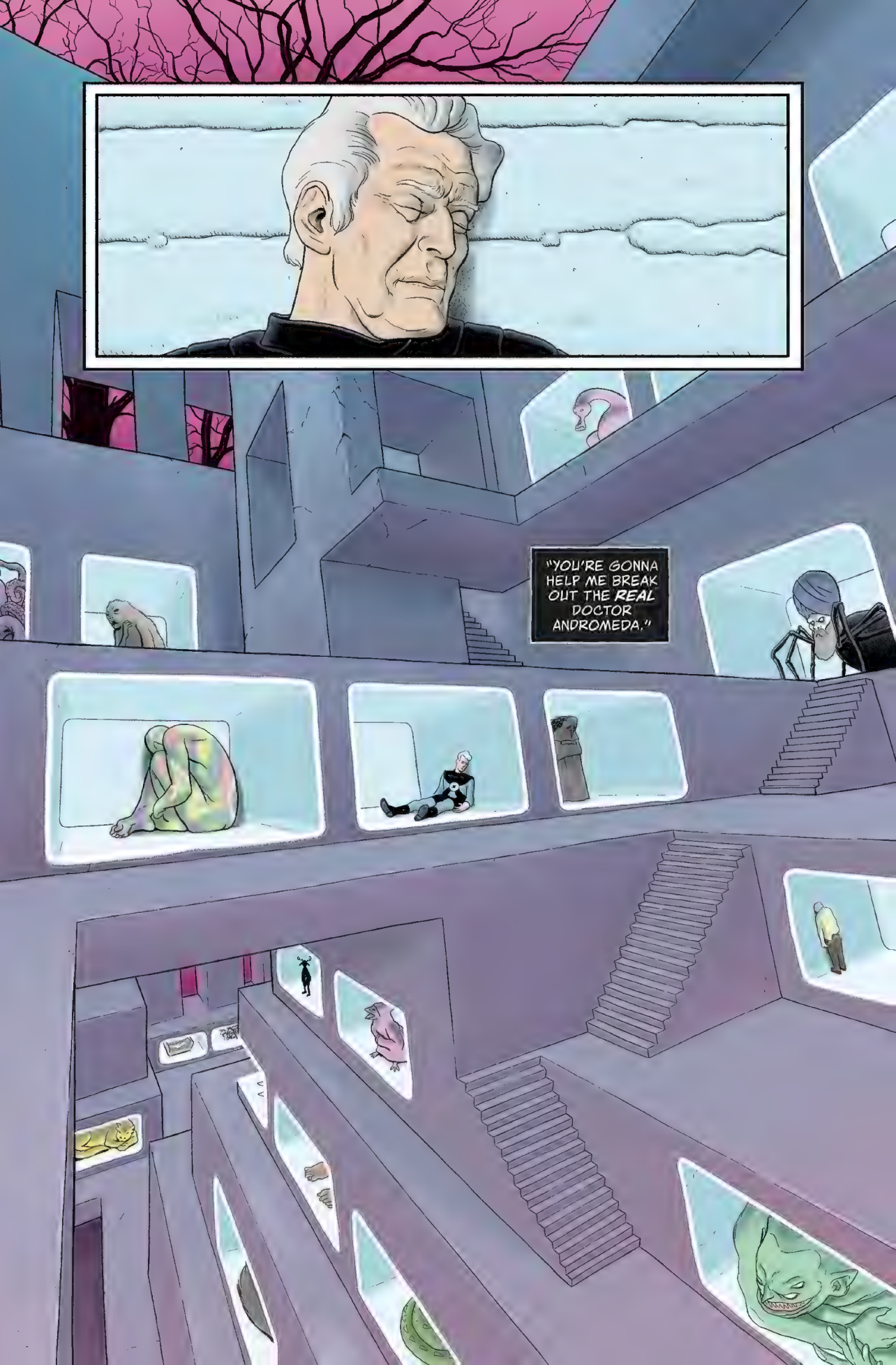
IF I HELP YOU, I STILL HUNT AT NIGHT. DAYTIME WE GO AFTER YOUR DOUBLE.
NIGHTS-- NIGHTS ARE STILL MINE.
DEAL.
BUT, UM, WHEN WILL YOU SLEEP?
JUSTICE NEVER SLEEPS.
RIGHT. OF COURSE NOT.
WELL, IF WE ARE GOING TO BE PARTNERS, YOUR EQUIPMENT IS GOING TO NEED A LITTLE UPGRADE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY EQUIPMENT?
YOU, MY BOY, NEED TO START THINKING BIGGER. YOU NEED TO START THINKING MORE COSMIC!
HRMM...

NOW.
THIS IS SERIOUSLY MESSED UP.
LET THEM BEAT US.
WHAT?!

YOU HEARD ME!
THIS GUY IS KIND OF APING YOUR COSTUME, GRIMDIGGER.
--UNGH!
WHO ARE YOU?!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
THEY'RE FROM THE ALTERNATE SPIRAL CITY, AND THEY ARE CLEARLY THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANOMALY.
LET'S TAKE THEM IN. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME AND WE NEED ANSWERS.
AH, SCREW THIS!
WHAM

KRRRAKKK
I GOT HER BOSS-- ARRRGH!
HANDS OFF, ASSHOLE.
SPLURT
FASCINATING. SHE IS A DUPLICATE OF OUR BLACK HAMMER. EVEN HER POWER LEVELS.
YOUR BLACK HAMMER?
BOOP
INDEED. LUCKILY I'VE ALREADY SPENT A LIFETIME LEARNING HOW TO DEAL WITH YOU.
CHOOOM
HEY!

--UNGH!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO FIGHT.
FFFSSSHHHHHHH
YOU WANTED TO GET BEATEN, DIDN'T YOU?
YES. I JUST NEEDED YOU TO GET HERE BEFORE I LET THEM CATCH ME.
THEY'LL LOCK US UP.
GREAT! JUST PERFECT. AND HOW IS THAT GOING TO HELP US STOP OUR WORLD FROM SMASHING UP INTO THIS BACKWARDS FUCKING DIMENSION?!
BECAUSE, THEY'LL LOCK US IN THEIR SPIRAL ASYLUM. AND THAT'S WHERE HE IS.

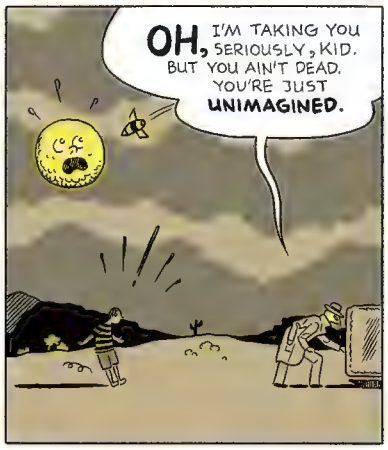

"YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME BREAK OUT THE REAL DOCTOR ANDROMEDA."

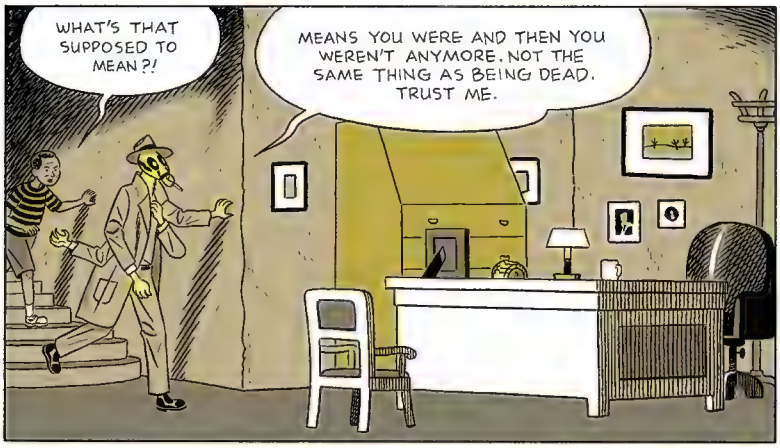
INSPECTOR INSECTOR in ...

THE CASE OF THE ELECTRIC BOY PART TWO

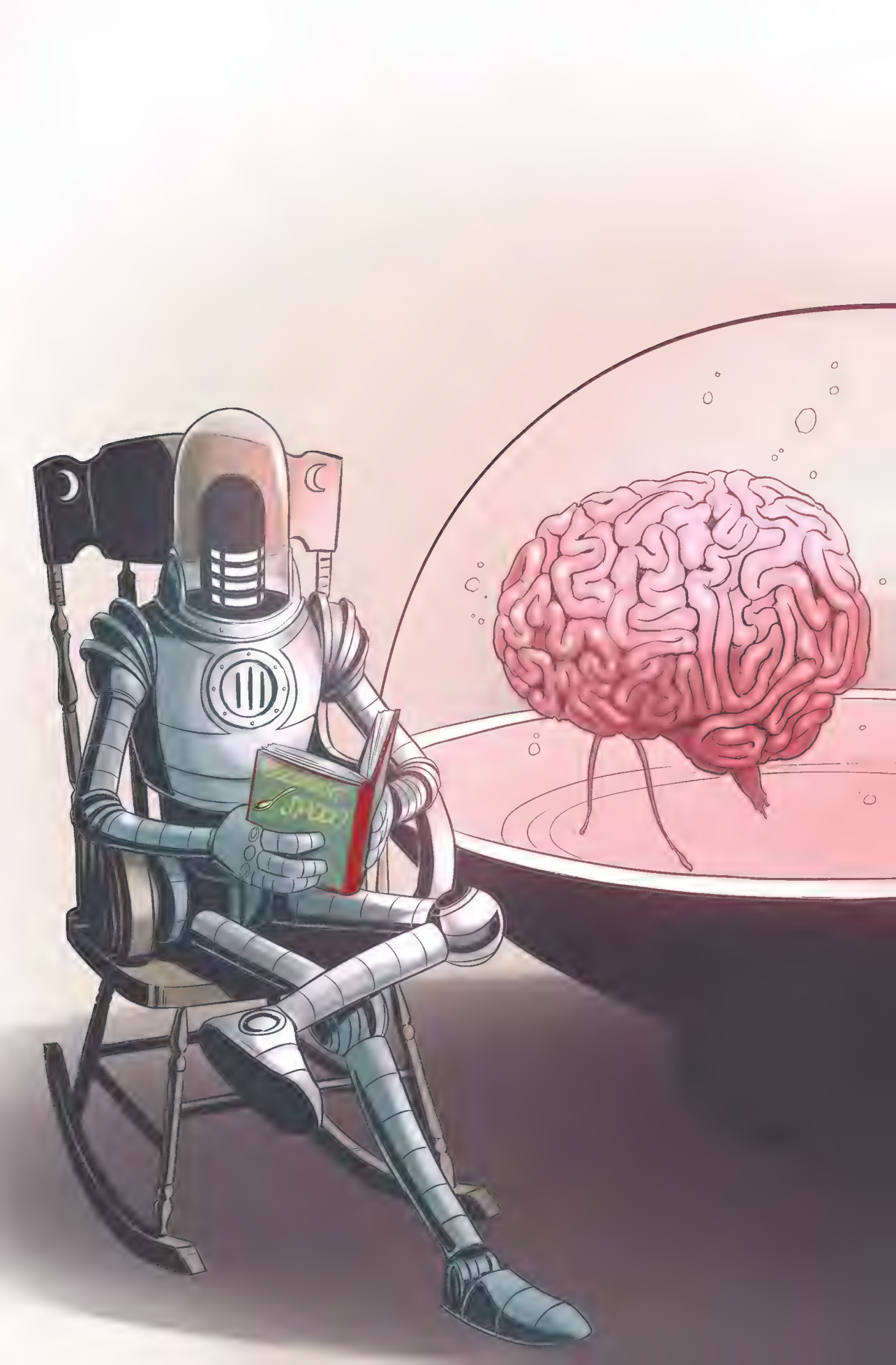
By JEFF LEMIRE & RICH TOMMASO

I JUST TOLD YOU I THINK THAT I'M DEAD! COLONEL WEIRD SHOT ME AND MY DAD AND MY SISTER WITH A RAY GUN! WHY WON'T YOU TAKE ME SERIOUSLY?!



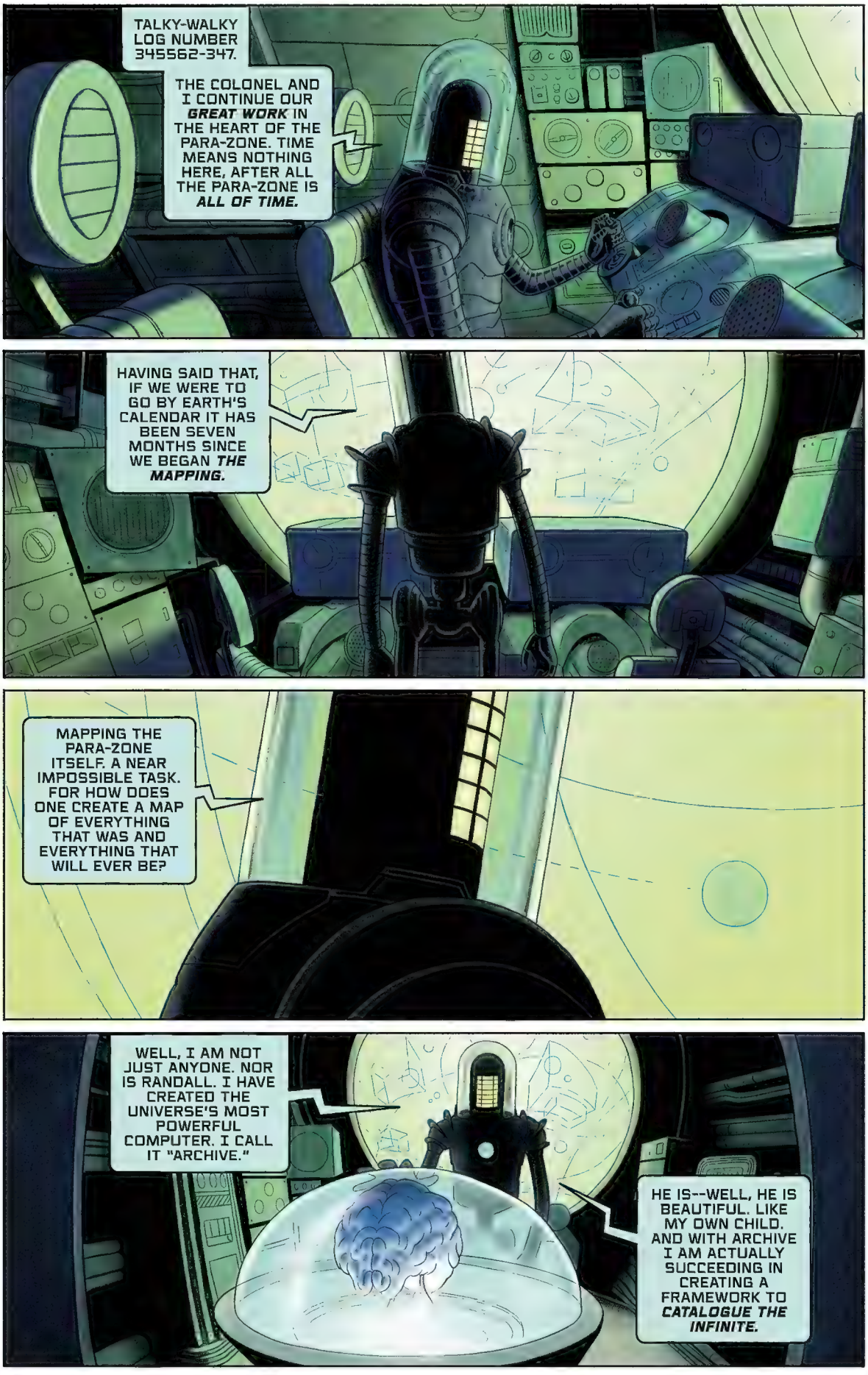


WHOA!
WHO ARE THEY?
JOE WEBER, MEET MY TWO BEST LEG-MEN, GOLDEN GOOSE AND HAM SLAMWICH.
OINK!
OKAY, SO LISTEN UP. JOE HERE SAYS HE WAS SENT HERE BY COLONEL WEIRD. WE'VE ALL MET WEIRD AND WE KNOW WHERE HE GOES, TROUBLE FOLLOWS.
NOW, THE BOY SAYS HE WAS ZAPPED WITH HIS DAD AND HIS SISTER, SO THAT LEAVES US WITH THREE MYSTERIES TO SOLVE, GANG...
NUMBER ONE, WHERE ARE THE OTHER WEBERS? AND NUMBER TWO, WHY DID WEIRD ZAP HIM HERE TO LIMBOLAND?
AND THREE, HOW DOES IT ALL CONNECT TO THE FEELING I'VE HAD LATELY THERE IS MORE TO US AND THIS PLACE THAN WE'VE REALIZED?
HSSSSSSSSSSS
WHAT IS THAT?!
I DON'T--
COUGH!
BUG SPRAY!
COUGH! COUGH!
WE GOTTA GET HIM OUTTA HERE!
QUACK!
NOT SO FAST, KID.
THE FUMI-GATOR
WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.
CONTINUED!



How long has it been...since I slept? Since I...dreamt?
I cannot remember when I last...slept. Should I? **Can I** even if I wanted to?
Perhaps I should...shave?
Do I...shave today? I don't--why don't I know?

That was... weird.
Ugh!
Where did you... go?


TALKY-WALKY LOG NUMBER 345562-347.
THE COLONEL AND I CONTINUE OUR ***GREAT WORK*** IN THE HEART OF THE PARA-ZONE. TIME MEANS NOTHING HERE, AFTER ALL THE PARA-ZONE IS ***ALL OF TIME.***
HAVING SAID THAT, IF WE WERE TO GO BY EARTH'S CALENDAR IT HAS BEEN SEVEN MONTHS SINCE WE BEGAN ***THE MAPPING.***
MAPPING THE PARA-ZONE ITSELF. A NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TASK. FOR HOW DOES ONE CREATE A MAP OF EVERYTHING THAT WAS AND EVERYTHING THAT WILL EVER BE?
WELL, I AM NOT JUST ANYONE. NOR IS RANDALL. I HAVE CREATED THE UNIVERSE'S MOST POWERFUL COMPUTER. I CALL IT "ARCHIVE."
HE IS--WELL, HE IS BEAUTIFUL. LIKE MY OWN CHILD. AND WITH ARCHIVE I AM ACTUALLY SUCCEEDING IN CREATING A FRAMEWORK TO ***CATALOGUE THE INFINITE.***

AH, COLONEL. I DID NOT DETECT YOU THERE. ARE YOU--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I am...far from all right, Talky-Walky. I feel...very strange. And the headaches I told you about...they are getting worse.
I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU, RANDALL. THIS IS NOT NORMAL FOR YOU--TO FEEL PHYSICAL PAIN LIKE THIS.
I know, old girl. I think something is... something is about to happen.
Talky...do you remember the last time...I slept?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EEEP
COLONEL?!
ARRRGHH!
EEEP
WE HAVE AN ANOMALY! ARCHIVE IS READING IT AS PART OF THE PARA-ZONE, YET ALSO AS IF IT WERE OUTSIDE OF THE PARA-ZONE? THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
EEEP
EEEP
EEEP
...I feel like should know what that is...but I do not.
I need to go to it...I must know...
COLONEL, NO! I DO NOT THINK THAT IS WISE. WE MUST STUDY THE ANOMALY FIRST.

It is like...it is calling to me, Talky...I must...

COLONEL--ZZZT--CAN YOU--HEAR ME--ZZT--

Those voices. I...know those voices.

BROODING AGAIN, GAIL?

YEP. WANT TO JOIN ME?

DON'T MIND IF I DO. I COULD USE A GOOD BROOD.

GAIL...BARBALIEN... WHY IS THIS HERE? THIS IS NOT **WHEN** IT HAPPENED. WHY HAS IT...MOVED?

WE CAN HAVE HIM BACK! DON'T YOU SEE! WE CAN FIND HIM TOGETHER!

What? Who is...?

--TOGETHER WE CAN CRACK IT OPEN, JIM. TOGETHER WE CAN EXPLORE THE PARA-VERSE AND FIND OUR SON. WE CAN HAVE HIM BACK!

Doctor Andromeda?!

CHARLIE MAY HAVE DIED *FOR US,* BUT THERE ARE STILL *OTHER VERSIONS* OF HIM OUT THERE!
THAT'S-- THAT'S UNNATURAL! WE CAN'T OPEN THE PARA-VERSE! *WE CANNOT RISK IT!* YOU MUST KNOW WHAT *THE COST* WOULD BE!

BUT WHAT IF WE COULD HARNESS HIM TOO?! THINK OF THE FREEDOM IF WE DID! THINK OF THE POWER!
Doctor ...Andromeda? What is happening? What is this?
WEIRD?!

WHAT THE HELL ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?! YOU LOOK DIFFERENT.

"Different?" Do I?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, COLONEL. WE NEED TO STOP THIS IMPOSTER! HE'S GONE MAD.

WUB

WUB

Gone...mad? I...why don't I remember this? Why is this not...part of the pattern?

ENOUGH! IF YOU WON'T JOIN ME, I'LL DO IT MYSELF. YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE!

SHRIEK

What-- what is the *Para-verse*?

DON'T YOU KNOW? DON'T YOU *SEE IT*?

"THE PARA-ZONE IS JUST *ONE SIDE* OF A MUCH GREATER PATTERN."

THIS PARA-ZONE--EVERYTHING YOU KNOW--IS JUST ONE OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF PARA-ZONES!

AAAARRRGGGHHHHHHH

"AND NOW YOU KNOW WHAT LIES AT THE CENTER OF IT...YOU SEE ***WHO STILL SLEEPS*** IN THE VOID BETWEEN WORLDS!

ANTI-GOD!

"...AND YOU SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN HE ***WAKES.***"

NO!

"...YOU SEE THE SECOND CATACLYSM!"

HERE WE GO! NO HOLDING BACK! GIVE HIM ALL YOU GOT!

DA! LIBEY YEGO!

THIS IS FUCKED.

YOU'RE TELLING ME, GORILLA GAIL. I DON'T EVEN SPEAK RUSSIAN.

THWOOM

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?! HELP US!

Help you? No I...I think I know what I must do...

I am...so sorry...Lucy. I... I love you. But... This is what I do...now.

PUT THAT ***FUCKING RAY-GUN*** DOWN ***RIGHT NOW,*** YOU CRAZY SON OF A BITCH!

Why? You saw--you saw ***all of them.*** You know what ***they are.***

SO WHAT?! SO THEY AREN'T PERFECT! BUT THEY ***ARE MINE!***

Exactly.

And now they are...gone.

SMACK

This does not feel...real.

NO!

This all feels like...like a bad dream.

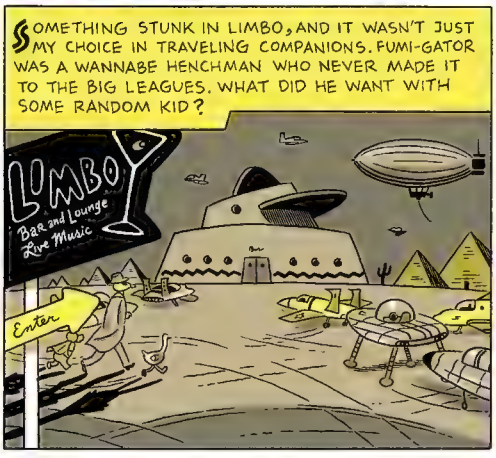
How long has it been...since I slept? Since I...dreamt?
I cannot remember when I last...slept. Should I? Can I even if I wanted to?
Perhaps I should...shave?
Wait...this just happened...this has already...happened.
Uh oh.

INSPECTOR INSECTOR in ...

THE CASE OF THE ELECTRIC BOY PART THREE

By JEFF LEMIRE & RICH TOMMASO

FAT LOTTA GOOD YOU ARE, HAM SLAMWICH. WE BETTER START HITTING THE PAVEMENT, PALS, AND TRACKING DOWN A LEAD. THE KID IS COUNTING ON US!


SOMETHING STUNK IN LIMBO, AND IT WASN'T JUST MY CHOICE IN TRAVELING COMPANIONS. FUMI-GATOR WAS A WANNABE HENCHMAN WHO NEVER MADE IT TO THE BIG LEAGUES. WHAT DID HE WANT WITH SOME RANDOM KID?
LIMBO
Bar and Lounge
Live Music
Enter

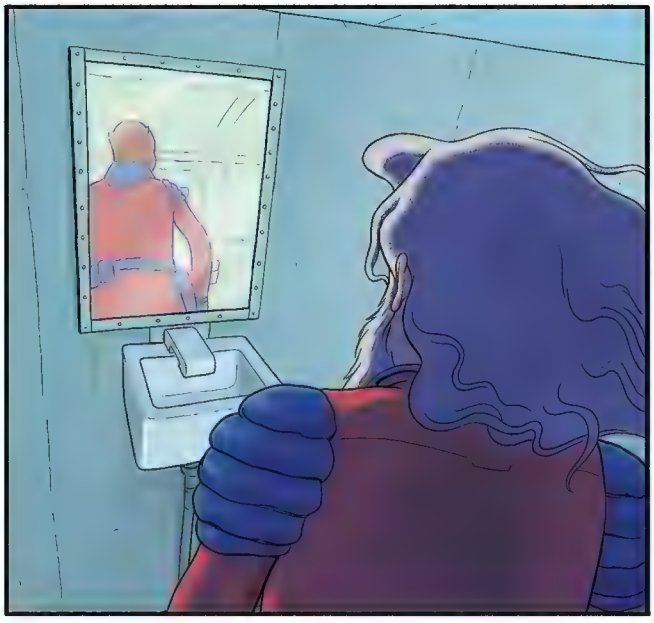
NOT TONIGHT, PETE. ALREADY GOT A SPLITTING HEADACHE, AND BESIDES, I'M ON THE JOB, GOTTA STAY SHARP. BUT YOU CAN GET SOME PRETZELS FOR MY PALS!

IF YOU WANTED TO KNOW ANYTHING IN LIMBO, YOU WENT TO STRETCH...OR DETECTIVE DISTENDER AS HE WAS ALMOST KNOWN, BACK IN THE DAY HE WAS THE GREATEST SLEUTH THAT NEVER WAS. AND TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNEW WHEN I FIRST SHOWED UP HERE.
SSSSIFFFF
YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT A NO-GOOD GATOR?
A GATOR? NOT SO MUCH. BUT I DO KNOW SOMETHING AIN'T RIGHT IN LIMBO, PAL. AND YOU FEEL IT TOO. THIS PLACE IS...MORE PLIABLE THAN USUAL. STUFF SHIFTING IN AND OUT OF REALITY WAY QUICKER THAN IT USED TO.
YEAH. I FEEL IT TOO. SOMETHING BAD IS COMING. YOU THINK THIS GATOR AND THE KID GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT?
THAT KID...WHEN DID HE POP UP?
JUST LAST NIGHT... WHY?
SIFFFFF
HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT, INSECTOR. A BAD, BAD DREAM. A WAVE OF NOTHINGNESS SWEEPING ACROSS LIMBO. UNCREATING EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE. AND AS MUCH AS I TRIED TO STRETCH MY WAY OUT OF IT... WELL...
EXIT
EMERGENCY ONLY
TAP TAP TAP
I GOTTA FIND THAT KID. SO, WHERE DO I START?
WELL, ALL I KNOW IS IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GATOR, I'D START IN THE SEWERS.
GOOSE! SLAMWICH! LET'S ROLL!
OINK!
PWEET!
DON'T OINK AT ME, SLAMWICH! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO STEER CLEAR OF TENTACLAW, UNLESS YOU GOT A SUPPLY OF PENICILLIN I DON'T KNOW ABOUT!
OINK!
QUACK!
WELL I DON'T LIKE THE SMELL DOWN THERE EITHER, BUT SOMETIMES A GOOSE HAS GOTTA SUCK IT UP! LITTLE JOE WEBER IS IN A PICKLE AND WE GOTTA SAVE HIS BACON!
NO OFFENSE THERE, SLAMWICH.
BE READY FOR ANYTHING, BUCKOS! LIMBO, AND THAT KID, ARE COUNTING ON US!
TO BE CONTINUED

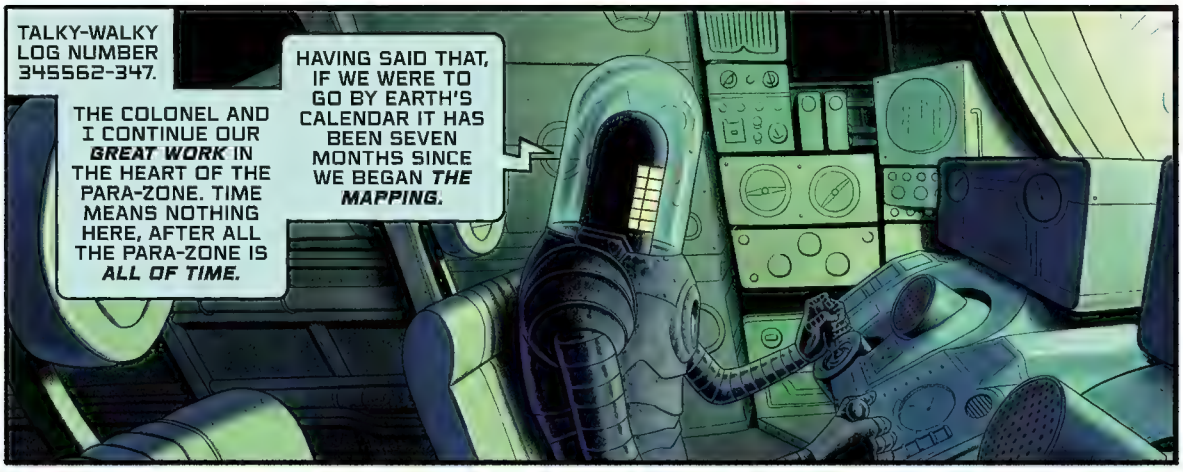
How long has it been...since I slept? Since I...dreamt?
I cannot remember when I last...slept. Should I? Can I even if I wanted to?
This has just happened...hasn't it?
Uh oh.

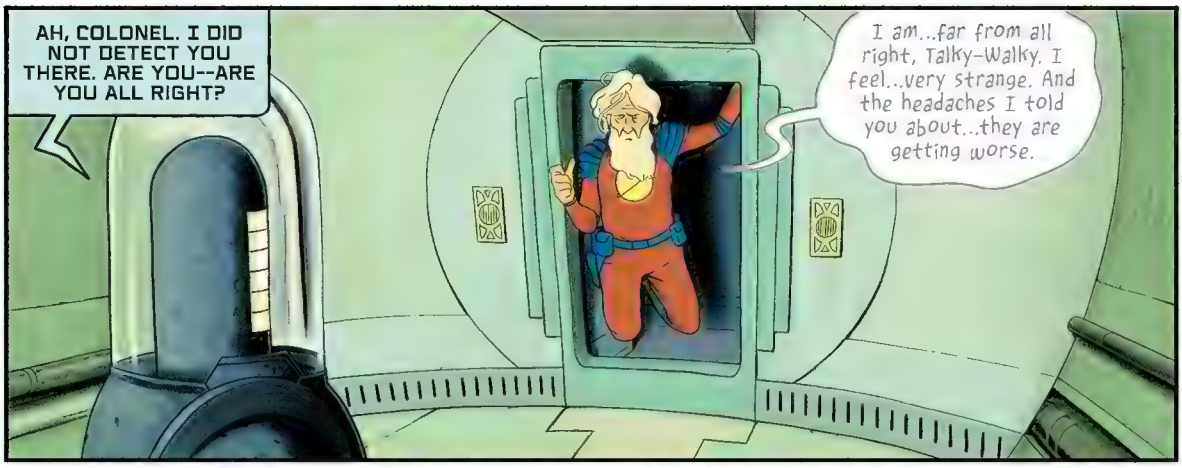
Perhaps I should...shave?

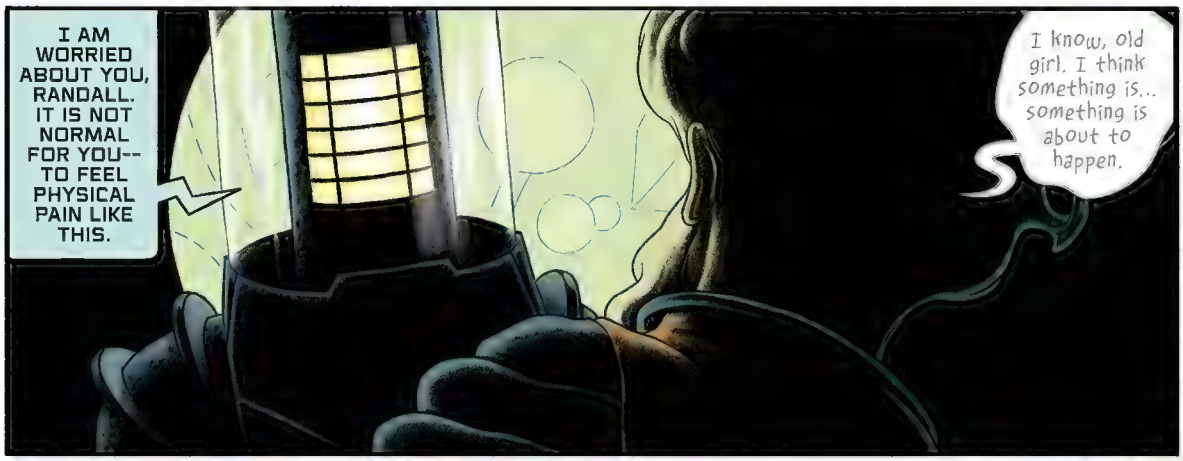
Do I...shave today? I don't--why don't I know?



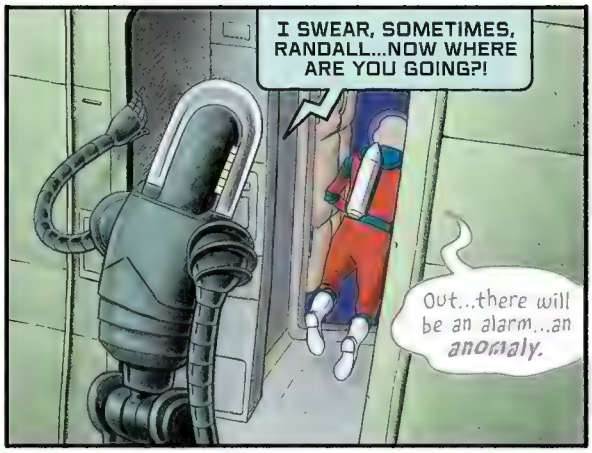
--Ungh!


TALKY-WALKY LOG NUMBER 345562-347.
THE COLONEL AND I CONTINUE OUR GREAT WORK IN THE HEART OF THE PARA-ZONE. TIME MEANS NOTHING HERE, AFTER ALL THE PARA-ZONE IS ALL OF TIME.
HAVING SAID THAT, IF WE WERE TO GO BY EARTH'S CALENDAR IT HAS BEEN SEVEN MONTHS SINCE WE BEGAN THE MAPPING.


AH, COLONEL. I DID NOT DETECT YOU THERE. ARE YOU--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I am...far from all right, Talky-Walky. I feel...very strange. And the headaches I told you about...they are getting worse.


I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU, RANDALL. IT IS NOT NORMAL FOR YOU-- TO FEEL PHYSICAL PAIN LIKE THIS.
I know, old girl. I think something is... something is about to happen.

Talky...do you remember the last time...I slept?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


I SWEAR, SOMETIMES, RANDALL...NOW WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
Out...there will be an alarm...an anomaly.

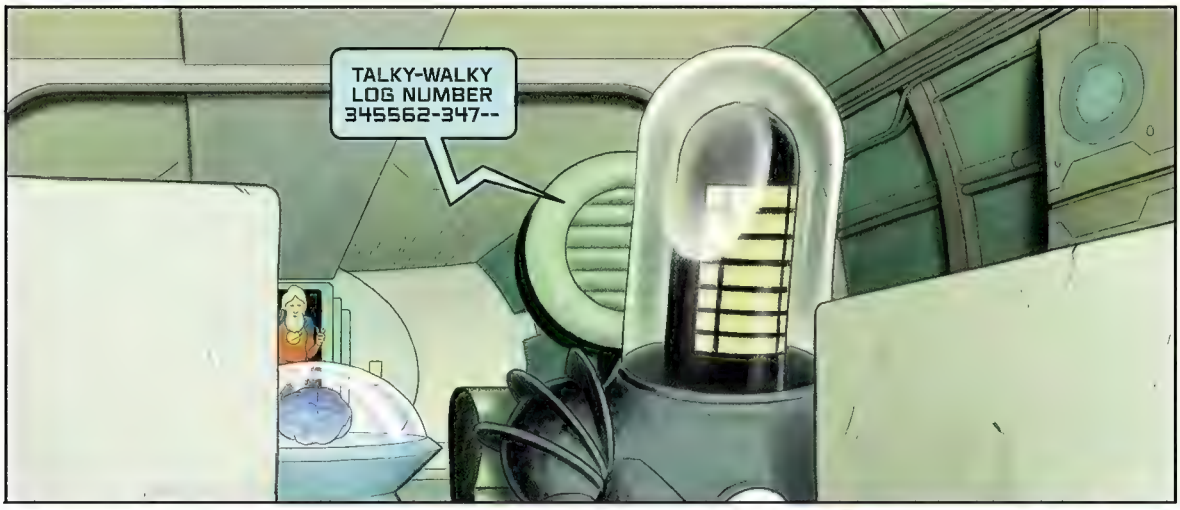
ANOMALY?! WHAT ARE YOU--
OH.
EEEP
EEEP
EP
WHAT IS IT, COLONEL?!
The Cataclysm... The Second Cataclysm...
SECOND CATACLYSM?! COLONEL...THERE WAS NO SECOND CATACLYSM. IT ONLY HAPPENED ONCE. ANTI-GOD WAS DESTROYED.
No, Talky. He is just... sleeping...

Just sleeping.

ARRRGH!!!
When was...when was the last time I slept?

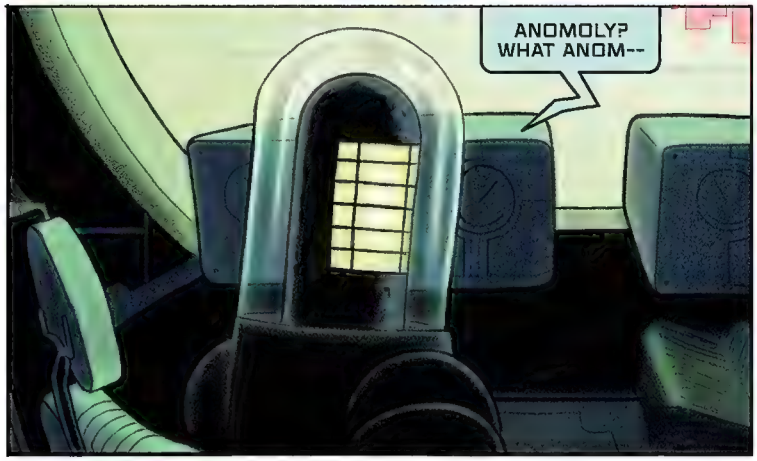
COLONEL?! COLONEL, WHAT'S WRONG?!

How long has it been...since I slept? Since I...dreamt?
I cannot remember when I last...slept. Should I? Can I even if I wanted to?
This has just happened...hasn't it?
Uh oh.
Perhaps I should...shave?
Do I...shave today? I don't--why don't I know?
Wait...Please... don't go...


TALKY-WALKY LOG NUMBER 345562-347--

AH, COLONEL. I DID NOT DETECT YOU THERE. ARE YOU--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I am...far from all right, Talky-Walky. I feel...very strange. And the headaches I told you about...they are getting worse.

But that's not...all. Something else is...happening to me. The... Anomaly...


ANOMOLY? WHAT ANOM--

EE
EEEP

How long has it been...since I slept, Talky?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, COLONEL?

Sleep, Talky...

He is just...asleep. Not destroyed... like we thought... But it is...just a matter of time...

...until he wakes!

Oh God!

NO!

ARRRRGHH!!

COLONEL?!

Who... are you?
Who do you think? I am... Colonel Weird.
Colonel Weird?
Yes...Colonel Rhonda Weird...

I want--
I want this to stop--
ARRRGH!
--Ungh--need to...make it stop..
EEEP
EEEP
EEEP
COLONEL! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY! WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED AN ANOMOLY!

COLONEL?! ARE YOU THERE?
I am...here... but I have seen things...terrible things.
I-- I need to know...I need to understand...I am going in.
GOING IN?! GOING WHERE? COLONEL?!
COLONEL?!

Talky-Walky...I don't know if you can hear me...but I have...found something.
And I think it may be...very important.

Hello... Randall... welcome home.

Welcome to... The Parliament of Weird.

What...is this? What...are you?
This is the moment we have been floating towards...all of your lives.
We are... you. Do not be... afraid.
You are not....alone anymore.
What I saw...the multiple earths...a second Cataclysm...is it...is it true?
Why have I not seen these things... before? I thought I knew...I thought I knew the whole pattern.
The things you saw are...true. The Para-zone you navigated all these years...just one of many.
The Pattern you know...just one of many.
And now that pattern is about to be broken...and rewritten...
We must act.. you must act, Randall.
But there must be... sacrifices. So then... the question is...
...are you ready to go to work?
How do I...help? Where do I...start?

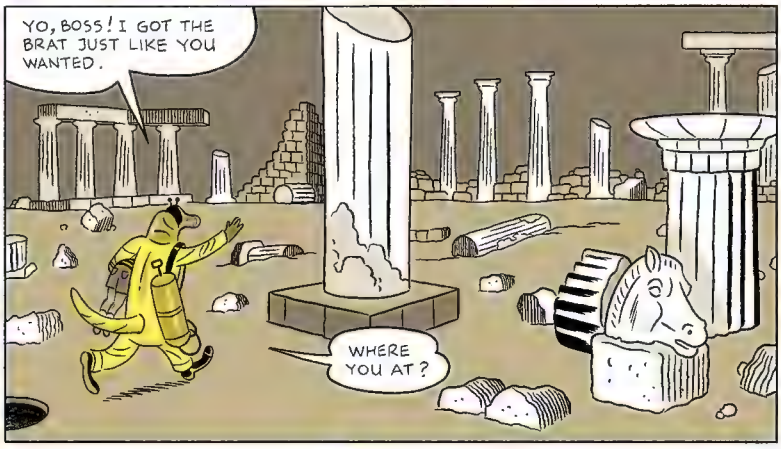
Lucy...
WEIRD?!
WHY?! WHY DID YOU TAKE THEM FROM ME?!
Lucy...I have seen what will happen...I am so sorry. This is how it must be...
Elliot... Rose...Joseph... they are the sacrifice that had to be made...
YOU'RE INSANE. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN INSANE!
I SWEAR WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE, I AM GOING TO KILL YOU, MOTHER-FUCKER!

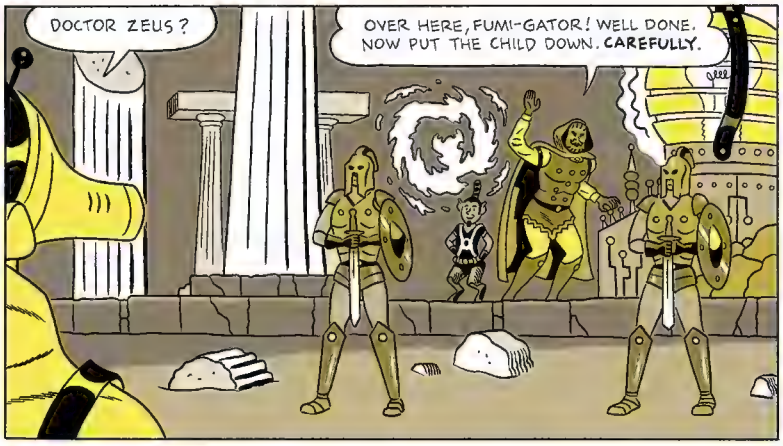
I know...
That too...is the sacrifice.
WEIRD?!
CHAK
COME BACK HERE!
LUCY.
SKULLDIGGER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING ANYMORE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.
I DO. FIRST YOU'RE GOING TO LET ME OUT OF HERE. THEN WE'LL BREAK THE REAL DOC ROBINSON LOOSE.
AND THEN...THEN WE KILL COLONEL WEIRD.

INSPECTOR INSECTOR in...

THE CASE OF THE ELECTRIC BOY PART FOUR

By JEFF LEMIRE & RICH TOMMASO





ENOUGH! THAT PORTAL APPEARED IN LIMBO THE SAME TIME YOU DID! BUT EVERY MINION I'VE SENT INTO IT HAS BEEN DESTROYED--UNMADE!
BUT YOUR ENERGY IS ATTUNED TO IT! YOU ARE THE SAME! OUR MACHINES HAVE CONFIRMED IT!
PAN IS RIGHT. WE KNOW THAT PORTAL IS A DOORWAY OUT OF THIS GOD-FORSAKEN PLACE. AND YOU, BOY-- YOU ARE THE KEY.
QUACK!
YOU TELL 'IM, GOLDEN GOOSE! STEP AWAY FROM THE KIDDO, ZEUS, OR I START SQUIRTING LEAD!
THE BUG MAN, EH? NO MATTER...
SQUASH HIM!
COME ON! IT'S TIME! TIME TO SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE!
INSPECTOR!
OPEN IT! I KNOW YOU HAVE POWER! OPEN IT!
NO!
JOSEPH!!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

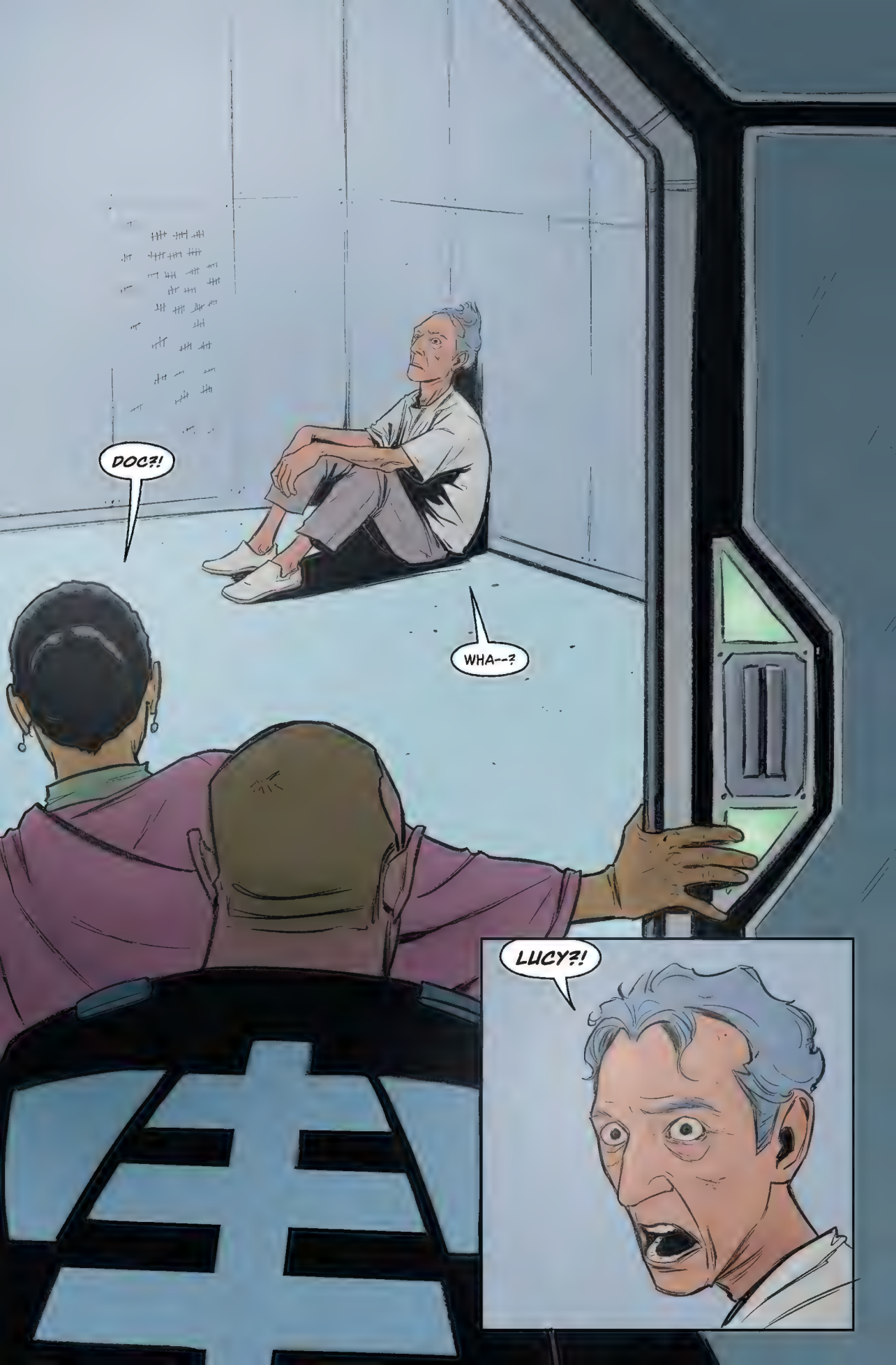
IN THE PAGES OF

BLACK HAMMER REBORN #9!

HI. MY NAME IS LUCY. LET'S RECAP, SHALL WE? BECAUSE THINGS HAVE GOTTEN REALLY FUCKING CONFUSING.
OKAY, FIRST THING-- THERE IS ANOTHER SPIRAL CITY. ONE WHERE EVERYTHING IS BACKWARDS. AND **THAT** OTHER SPIRAL CITY IS ABOUT TO COLLIDE WITH **OURS.**
ON THIS OTHER WORLD, SHERLOCK FRANKENSTEIN IS STILL AROUND AND HE'S ALWAYS BEEN **THIS WORLD'S** GREATEST SUPERHERO. HE LOCKED SKULLDIGGER AND ME UP HERE. TOOK MY HAMMER.
THIS ALL STARTED TWENTY YEARS AGO WHEN I KILLED DOC ANDROMEDA. OR AT LEAST I THOUGHT I DID. TURNS OUT THAT WAS JUST THE BAD ALT-SPIRAL DOC, NOT MY DOC. HE WAS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRYING TO CRASH OUR TWO WORLDS TOGETHER BACK THEN (STILL CONFUSED? YEAH ME TOO. BUT STICK WITH ME.)

ALL OF THIS IS--WELL IT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING--
BUT IT'S NOT WHAT I CARE ABOUT. NOT REALLY. BUT I FALL INTO IT ANYWAY. I LET THE OLD MUSCLES LOOSEN UP AND BEGIN TO PLAY AT HERO AGAIN.
WHY? BECAUSE IF I STOP FOR A MINUTE--THEN I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I'VE LOST. I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THEM.
AND I CAN'T--I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT. IT'S TOO MUCH. IT'S TOO BIG. AND IF I LET IT, IT WILL CRUSH ME.
SO INSTEAD I CRUSH BACK.
WEIRD. WEIRD DID THIS. HE TOOK THEM. AND SOMEHOW IT'S ALL CONNECTED TO THIS FUCKED UP WORLD AND THIS FUCKED UP SITUATION.

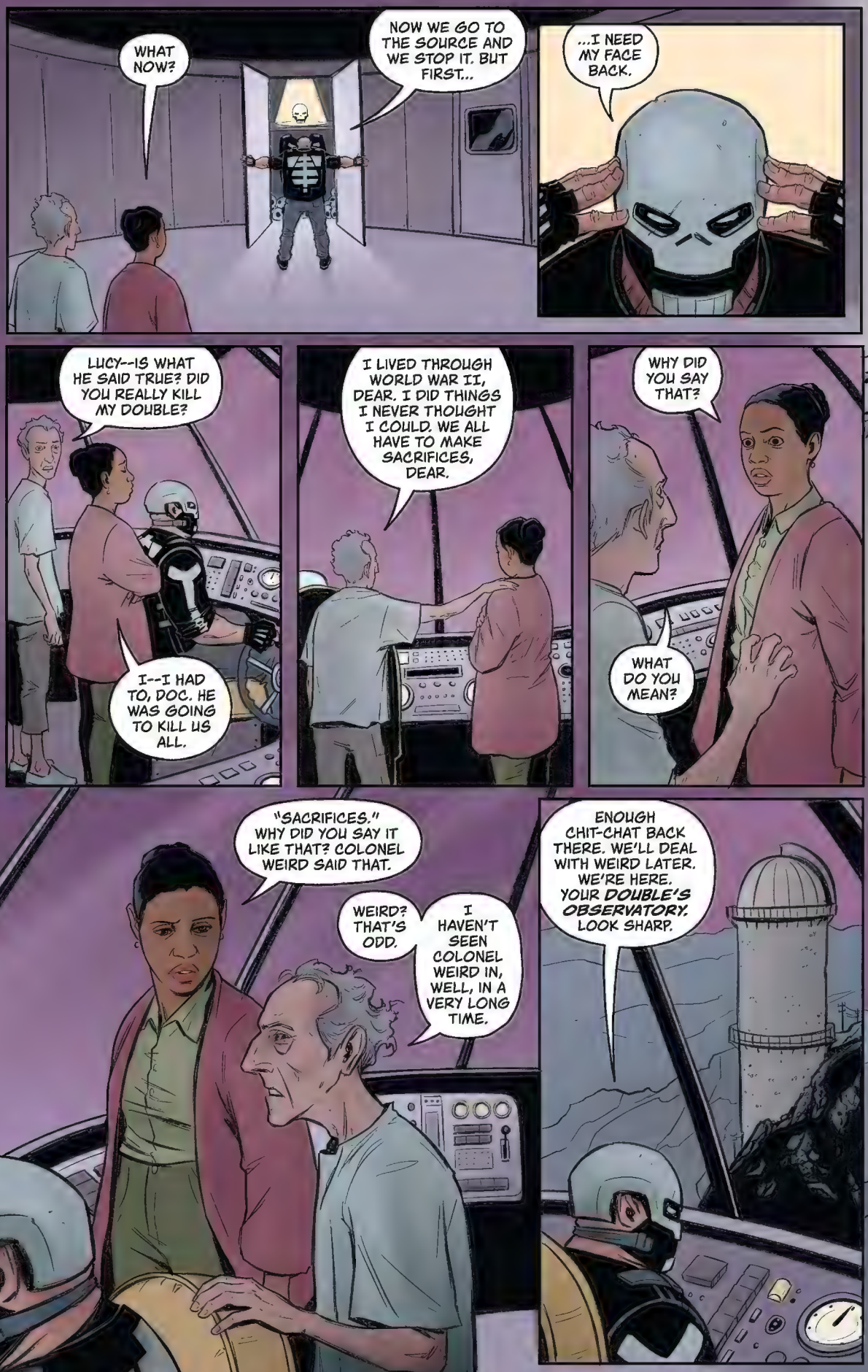
SO HERE I AM. HERE WE ARE. NOW I JUST NEED TO FIND A WAY OUT.
I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE SCHEMATICS OF THIS SPIRAL ASYLUM. I THINK THIS IS WHERE THEY HAVE DOC ROBINSON LOCKED UP.
HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
SKULLDIGGER...
WARDEN WING?
WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?
NOT WARDEN. NOT HERE. JUST ANOTHER CRIMINAL. COME ON.
WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
EEP!


DOC?!
WHA--?
LUCY?!

OH, DOC, I AM SO GLAD TO SEE YOU. I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE.
I--I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU TOO, DEAR.
I NEVER THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD COME. THOUGHT I WOULD BE HERE FOREVER.
TIME FOR THAT LATER. IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN, DOC. JUST LIKE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. THE TWO SPIRALS COLLIDING.
WHAT?! IS IT MY DOUBLE AGAIN? COULDN'T YOU STOP HIM, SKULLDIGGER?
SHE STOPPED HIM. SHE KILLED HIM. WHOEVER IS DOING IT THIS TIME, IT'S NOT YOUR DOPPELGÄNGER.
MY GOD! IT'S SO CLOSE.
YEAH. WE GOTTA MOVE. NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.

COME ON...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
OUR RIDE.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
FORGET IT! JUST BLAST 'EM!
CHOOM CHOOOM
GO! GO!
WE'RE SCREWED.
NO SHIT. SHERLOCK IS GOING TO BE PISSED.


WHAT NOW?
NOW WE GO TO THE SOURCE AND WE STOP IT. BUT FIRST...
...I NEED MY FACE BACK.
LUCY--IS WHAT HE SAID TRUE? DID YOU REALLY KILL MY DOUBLE?
I--I HAD TO, DOC. HE WAS GOING TO KILL US ALL.
I LIVED THROUGH WORLD WAR II, DEAR. I DID THINGS I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD. WE ALL HAVE TO MAKE SACRIFICES, DEAR.
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
"SACRIFICES." WHY DID YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT? COLONEL WEIRD SAID THAT.
WEIRD? THAT'S ODD.
I HAVEN'T SEEN COLONEL WEIRD IN, WELL, IN A VERY LONG TIME.
ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT BACK THERE. WE'LL DEAL WITH WEIRD LATER. WE'RE HERE. YOUR DOUBLE'S OBSERVATORY. LOOK SHARP.

WHOEVER HAS TAKEN UP MY DOUBLE'S WORK IS STILL OPERATING FROM HERE. THIS IS THE SOURCE. I CAN PRACTICALLY *SMELL* THE PARA-ENERGY IN THE AIR HERE.
KRRRRRRRMMMBBB
THE HELL?!
THE TWO WORLDS ARE GETTING TOO CLOSE! SOON THEY'LL RIP EACH OTHER APART!
TIME TO GET TO WORK THEN.
THWOOM

JESUS.
WE NEED TO DESTROY IT.
HOW?
HOW DO YOU THINK? WE HIT IT.
NOT SO FAST!

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT I NEED YOU TO STEP AWAY FROM THAT MACHINE. NOW.
SHERLOCK, YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO ME...WE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE HERE. WE ARE ALL JUST TRYING TO STOP THIS.
AND WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU OF ALL PEOPLE.
THAT IS NOT YOUR DOC ANDROMEDA. HE IS THE DOC FROM OUR WORLD. BACK THERE, EVERYTHING IS OPPOSITE. DOC IS NOT THE VILLAIN. HE DID NOT START ALL OF THIS.
OH, REALLY? WELL THEN, TELL ME, IF THAT'S TRULY YOUR DOC ROBINSON...

...THEN WHO IS THAT?
LUCY? LUCY WEBER?!

WHAT THE F--
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS GOTTA RUIN EVERYTHING, SHERLOCK?
UNGH!
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHO DO YOU THINK, DICK HEAD?
I'M THE GODDAMNED WARLORD FROM MARS.
SORRY TO HAVE TO LIE TO YOU LIKE THAT, LUCY. I JUST NEEDED TO TAG ALONG TO MAKE SURE YOU GOT HERE IN TIME.

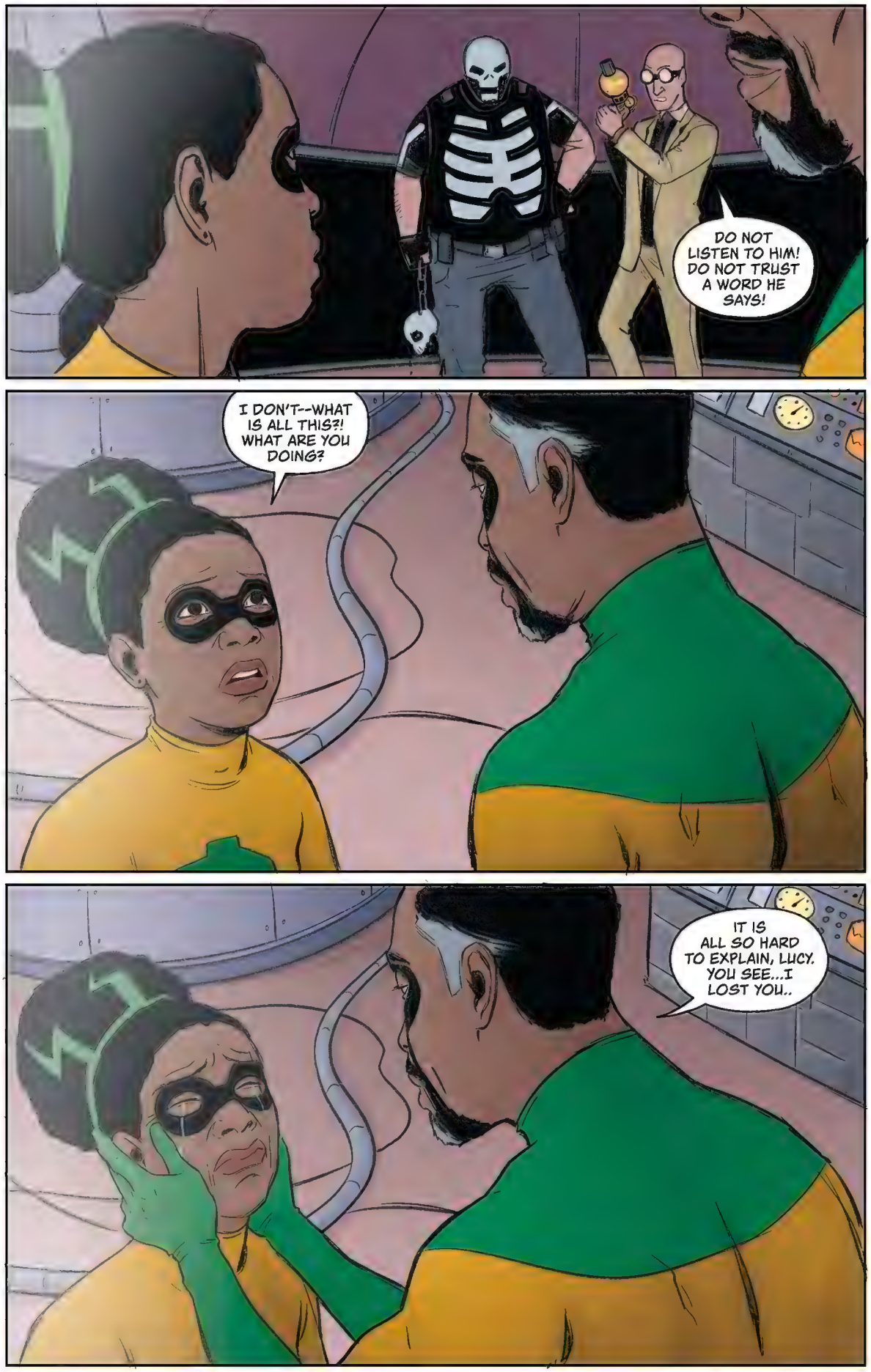
STAND DOWN, BARBALIEN!
--UNGH!
I GOT HIM.
CRACK
WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON HERE?!
INDEED.
SHRAZKKKKLLZT!!!
UNGH!

I CAN'T--I CAN'T SHUT IT DOWN, NOW. TOO LATE. YOU HAVE TO DESTROY IT!
ENOUGH, IS ENOUGH, SHERLOCK. YOU EITHER TRUST US OR YOU DON'T. WE ARE OUT OF TIME. GIVE ME MY HAMMER!
YOU BETTER BE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE.
I BARELY KNOW WHICH WAY IS UP ANYMORE. BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING...

...I'M STILL BLACK HAMMER. AND I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OF THIS MESSED UP SHIT.
SMACK

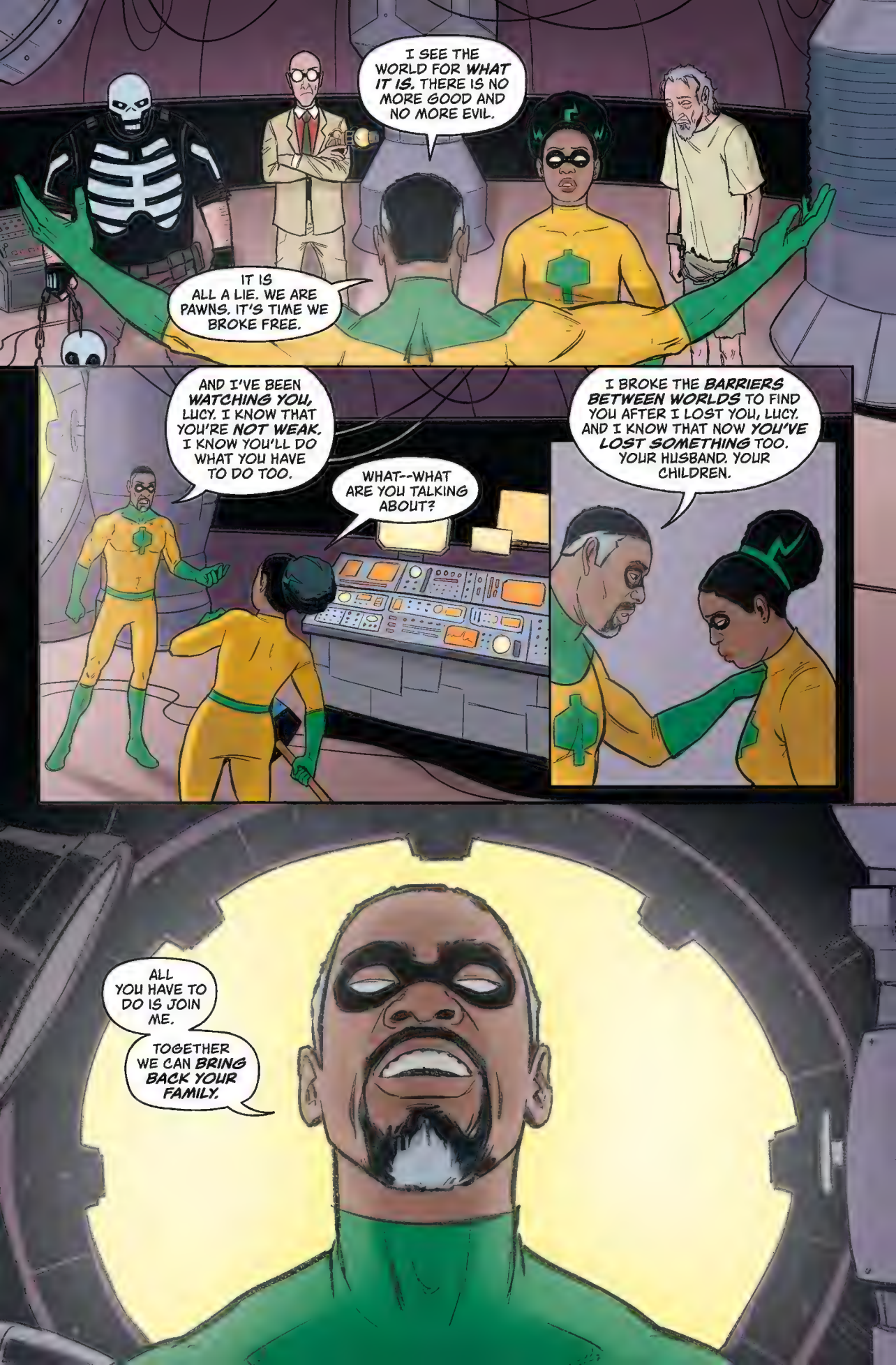
DOC, WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?!
HE MADE ME DO IT, LUCY. MADE ME REBUILD THE MACHINES. HE WANTS THE WORLDS TO COLLIDE. WANTS TO BREAK IT ALL.
WHO? THIS WORLD'S BARBALIEN?!
BARBALIEN? NO. HE IS JUST A FOOT SOLDIER, LUCY. DON'T YOU SEE?
IT WAS THIS WORLD'S GREATEST VILLAIN...

IT WAS BLACK HAMMER!
LUCY...
DAD?!
HELLO, SWEETHEART. I'VE--I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.


DO NOT LISTEN TO HIM! DO NOT TRUST A WORD HE SAYS!
I DON'T--WHAT IS ALL THIS?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT IS ALL SO HARD TO EXPLAIN, LUCY. YOU SEE...I LOST YOU..

"WHEN ANTI-GOD CAME HERE, HE WAS GOING TO DESTROY EVERYTHING.
"I WAS A VILLAIN HERE. I ADMIT THAT. MY MOTIVATIONS--THE WAY I ABUSED MY POWER--BUT EVEN SO, WE ALL BANDED TOGETHER ON THAT DAY TO STAND AGAINST ANTI-GOD.
"THAT WAS THE *LAST DAY* I EVER SAW YOU OR YOUR MOTHER...
"I TRIED TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT. I STOOD AGAINST ANTI-GOD.

"BUT UNLIKE YOUR WORLD, I LIVED. AND YOU...YOU AND YOUR MOTHER--
"YOU WERE THE ONES WHO DIED THAT DAY.
"BUT THEN DOC ANDROMEDA DISCOVERED THE PARA-VERSE. HE DISCOVERED WHAT REALITY REALLY IS. ALL THOSE WORLDS. ALL THOSE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES. AND I KNEW I COULD FIND YOU AGAIN."
I KNEW IF I TRIED I COULD BRING YOU BACK TO ME.
YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER. MY FATHER WOULD NEVER SACRIFICE ALL THESE LIVES--NOT EVEN FOR ME.
MAYBE THAT WAS HIS WEAKNESS? MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE'S GONE AND I'M STILL HERE.


I SEE THE WORLD FOR *WHAT IT IS.* THERE IS NO MORE GOOD AND NO MORE EVIL.
IT IS ALL A LIE. WE ARE PAWNS. IT'S TIME WE BROKE FREE.
AND I'VE BEEN *WATCHING YOU,* LUCY. I KNOW THAT YOU'RE *NOT WEAK.* I KNOW YOU'LL DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TOO.
WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I BROKE THE *BARRIERS BETWEEN WORLDS* TO FIND YOU AFTER I LOST YOU, LUCY. AND I KNOW THAT NOW *YOU'VE LOST SOMETHING* TOO. YOUR HUSBAND. YOUR CHILDREN.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS JOIN ME.
TOGETHER WE CAN *BRING BACK YOUR FAMILY.*

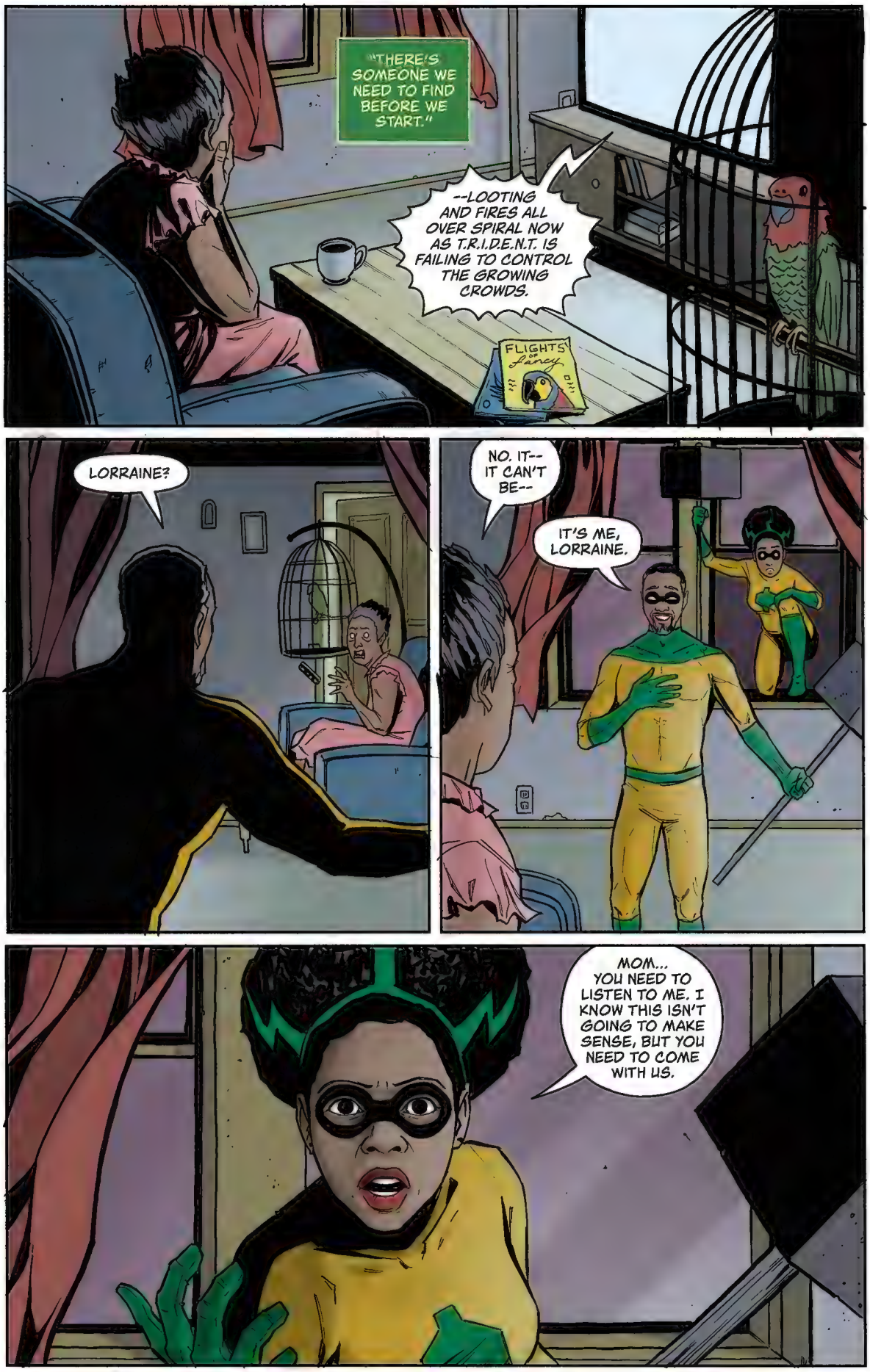
...COME WITH ME, LUCY. TOGETHER WE'LL SCOUR THE PARA-VERSE. WE'LL *FIND YOUR FAMILY.* WE'LL ALL BE TOGETHER AGAIN.
BUT THEY WON'T BE *MY FAMILY.* JUST SOME TWISTED VERSION LIKE YOU.
LOOK AT ME, LUCY. I MAY BE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, BUT I CAN *STILL BE* YOUR FATHER. AND YOU CAN BE MY LITTLE GIRL. JUST LIKE IT WAS. LIKE IT *SHOULD BE.*

ALL RIGHT. I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OF THIS!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

THIS IS A FAMILY MATTER!
THUNK
=GASP!=
DAD! NO!

WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU SMILING AT?!
YOU JUST CALLED ME DAD.
DIGGER!
--HRRRN-- DOC?
IT'S ME, MY BOY. I'M HERE...
TOLD YOU--TOLD YOU I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT MY STREETS, DOC--
YOU MONSTER! HE'LL DIE!

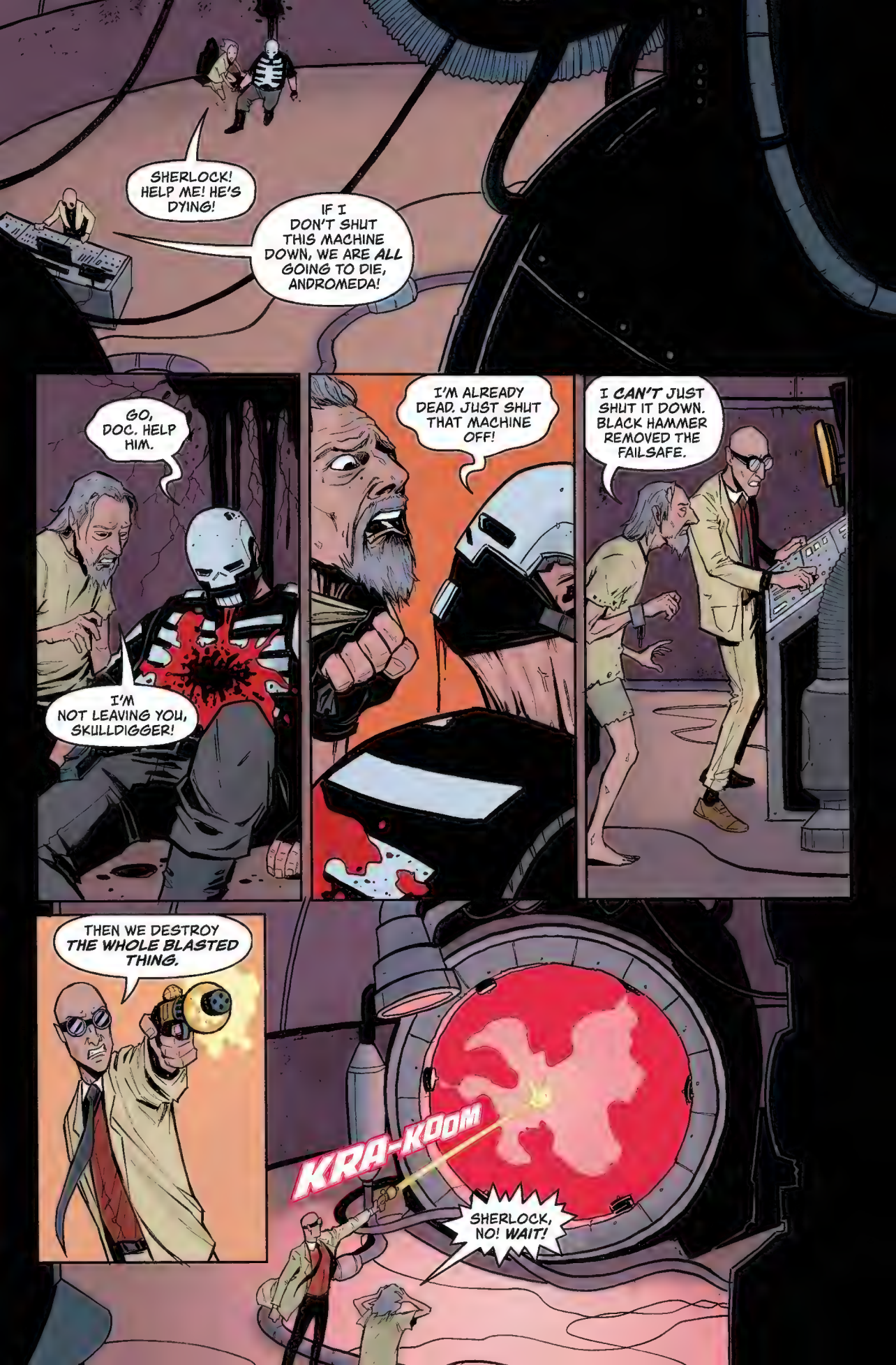
AND HOW MANY HAS HE KILLED?
DON'T YOU SEE? THIS MEANS NOTHING. THEY MEAN NOTHING. WE CAN BE TOGETHER.
BUT FIRST WE FIND YOUR CHILDREN.
WHERE-- WHERE WOULD WE START?
LUCY, NO! YOU CAN'T!
I'M SORRY, DOC...BUT IF THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WHERE ELSE? WE'RE GOING HOME...


"THERE'S SOMEONE WE NEED TO FIND BEFORE WE START."
--LOOTING AND FIRES ALL OVER SPIRAL NOW AS T.R.I.D.E.N.T. IS FAILING TO CONTROL THE GROWING CROWDS.
FLIGHTS of fancy
LORRAINE?
NO. IT-- IT CAN'T BE--
IT'S ME, LORRAINE.
MOM... YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO ME. I KNOW THIS ISN'T GOING TO MAKE SENSE, BUT YOU NEED TO COME WITH US.

MEANWHILE, IN LIMBOLAND:
THAT PORTAL IS A DOORWAY OUT OF THIS PLACE, CHILD! AND YOU ARE MY KEY. OPEN IT! OPEN IT!
NO!
--UNGH!
KZZA
INSPECTOR INSECTOR! HELP!
JOSEPH!

YES! YES, IT'S OPENED!!
NOT SO FAST, ZEUS! YOU AIN'T GOING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT KID!
WHAP!
SLAMWICH, GOOSE, YOU TWO GOTTA HOLD DOWN THE FORT. WHATEVER'S IN THERE, I CAN'T JUST LET THE KID GO IT ALONE.

HERE GOES NOTHING...
OINK!

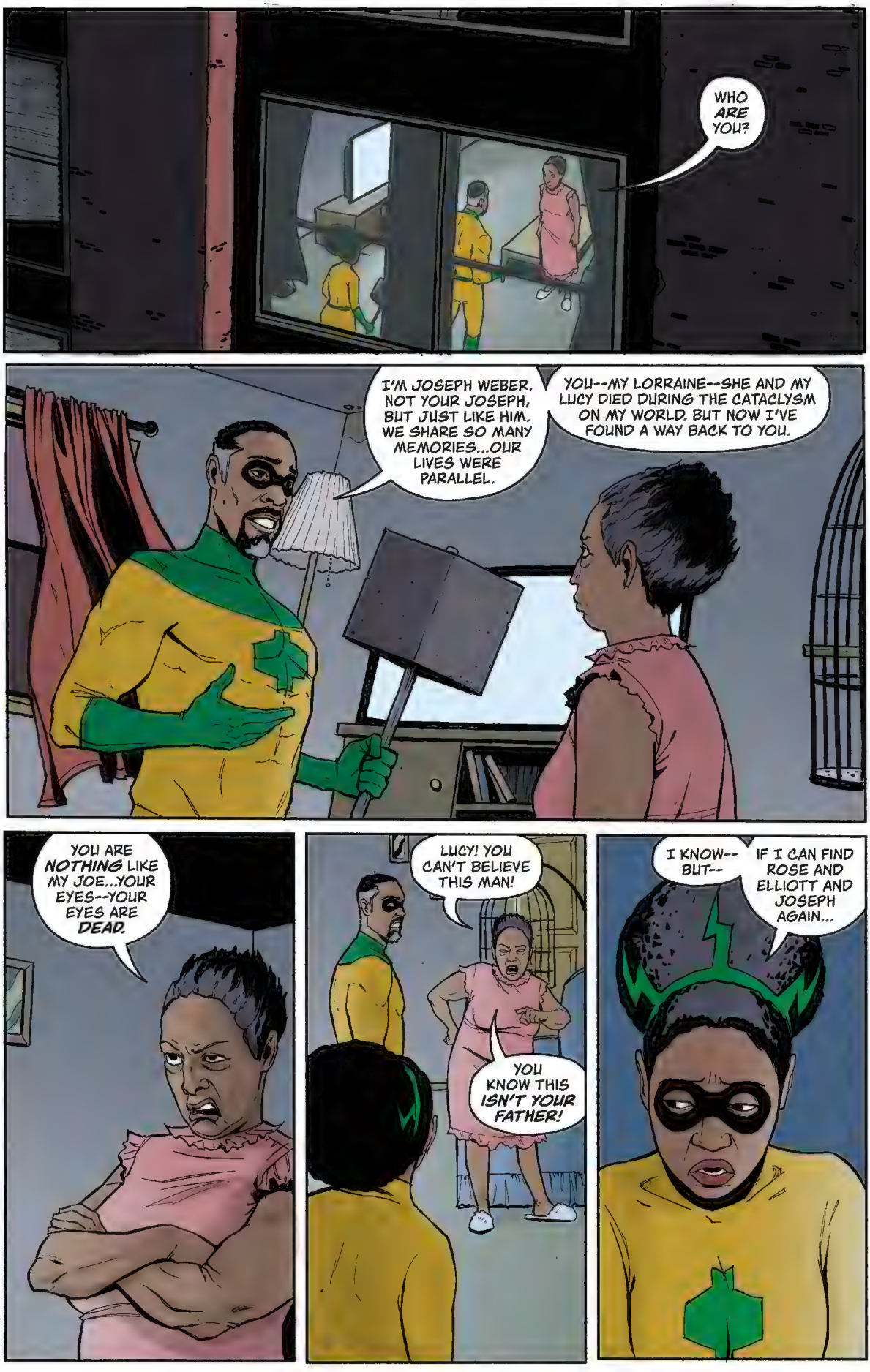

SHERLOCK! HELP ME! HE'S DYING!
IF I DON'T SHUT THIS MACHINE DOWN, WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE, ANDROMEDA!
GO, DOC. HELP HIM.
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU, SKULLDIGGER!
I'M ALREADY DEAD. JUST SHUT THAT MACHINE OFF!
I CAN'T JUST SHUT IT DOWN. BLACK HAMMER REMOVED THE FAILSAFE.
THEN WE DESTROY THE WHOLE BLASTED THING.
KRA-KOOM
SHERLOCK, NO! WAIT!

WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING, ANDROMEDA?!
I DON'T--
SKRTCH
WHAT-- WHAT IS IT?!
ANOTHER WORLD...A THIRD WORLD.

SOME KIND OF CHAIN REACTION...
STOP IT!
I-- I CAN'T. IT'S TOO LATE.

RRRRRUUUUMBLE
--UNGH!
SKULLDIGGER!
CAN YOU WALK?
NO. BUT THAT'S NOT GONNA STOP ME.
WE HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE. THE OBSERVATORY SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME SOME SORT OF WORLD NEXUS. IT'S ALL COLLAPSING!

IT AIN'T JUST THE OBSERVATORY, DOC...IT'S EVERY-THING.
PANDORA...
WE'VE OPENED THE BOX.


WHO ARE YOU?
I'M JOSEPH WEBER. NOT YOUR JOSEPH, BUT JUST LIKE HIM. WE SHARE SO MANY MEMORIES...OUR LIVES WERE PARALLEL.
YOU--MY LORRAINE--SHE AND MY LUCY DIED DURING THE CATACLYSM ON MY WORLD. BUT NOW I'VE FOUND A WAY BACK TO YOU.
YOU ARE NOTHING LIKE MY JOE...YOUR EYES--YOUR EYES ARE DEAD.
LUCY! YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THIS MAN!
YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T YOUR FATHER!
I KNOW-- BUT--
IF I CAN FIND ROSE AND ELLIOTT AND JOSEPH AGAIN...

FIND THEM?! WHATEVER THIS MAN HAS TOLD YOU--*THEY ARE DEAD,* LUCY! THEY ARE NOT COMING BACK!
I KNOW YOU WANT TO HEAR THAT ALL THIS SUPERHERO NONSENSE CAN BRING THEM BACK. YOU WANT TO BELIEVE *MORE THAN ANYTHING.* I KNOW. TRUST ME--I KNOW.
BUT IT CAN'T. THEY ARE GONE NOW, SWEETIE. YOU NEED TO LET THEM GO.
I CAN'T, MOM. I JUST--I'M TIRED OF ALL OF IT. EVERYTHING WAS OKAY WHEN I GAVE UP BEING BLACK HAMMER. BUT NOW--
IT'S ALL FALLEN APART. I JUST--I JUST WANT MY BABIES BACK.
IT WAS A MISTAKE COMING HERE, LUCY. SHE ISN'T THE ONE. LET'S GO. THERE WILL BE OTHERS. WE JUST NEED TO KEEP LOOKING.
OTHERS? THAT'S IT?
SHE IS MY MOTHER...MY *REAL* MOTHER. YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP LOOKING UNTIL YOU FIND A VERSION OF MOM THAT FITS!
I CAN'T--I CAN'T DO THIS. THIS IS WRONG.

RUMBLE
LUCY!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I DON'T KNOW, MOM.
IT'S STARTING!
SOONER THAN I THOUGHT...BUT IT'S STARTING! IT'S REALLY HAPPENING!
WHAT THE FUCK HAVE YOU DONE?!
I TOLD YOU. I AM BREAKING FREE OF ALL THIS. I AM TEARING IT AWAY. AND WHEN IT'S ALL GONE, WE'LL BE FREE.

AND FINDING MY FAMILY? WAS THAT ALL SOME LIE? JUST TO MANIPULATE ME?
NO. WE CAN STILL FIND THEM AND SAVE THEM FROM WHAT'S TO COME. THE WEBERS ARE ALL THAT WILL ENDURE. BLACK HAMMER IS ALL THAT WILL ENDURE.
I CAN DO IT ALONE, LUCY...BUT I WOULD RATHER YOU BY MY SIDE. SO, WHAT WILL IT BE? ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN ME, OR ARE YOU GOING TO STAND IN MY WAY?
I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE RIGHT AWAY...
THOOM

I REALLY WISH THIS TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.
THIS TIME?!
YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE *THE FIRST* I FOUND?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE DIFFERENT. YOUR LOSS, YOUR PAIN. SO MUCH LIKE MINE.
BUT IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU...
THOOM
--I'LL AT LEAST HAVE *YOUR HAMMER.*

ELSEWHERE.
KZZZZACKT
UNGH!

INSPECTOR!
WHAT HAPPENED, WHERE ARE WE?
THAT'S THE MYSTERY, KID.
SHOULD WE HIDE?!
A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT, KIDDO.

DAD! ROSE!!
OH, JOE! WE WERE SO WORRIED!
JOE?!
AW, SHIT.

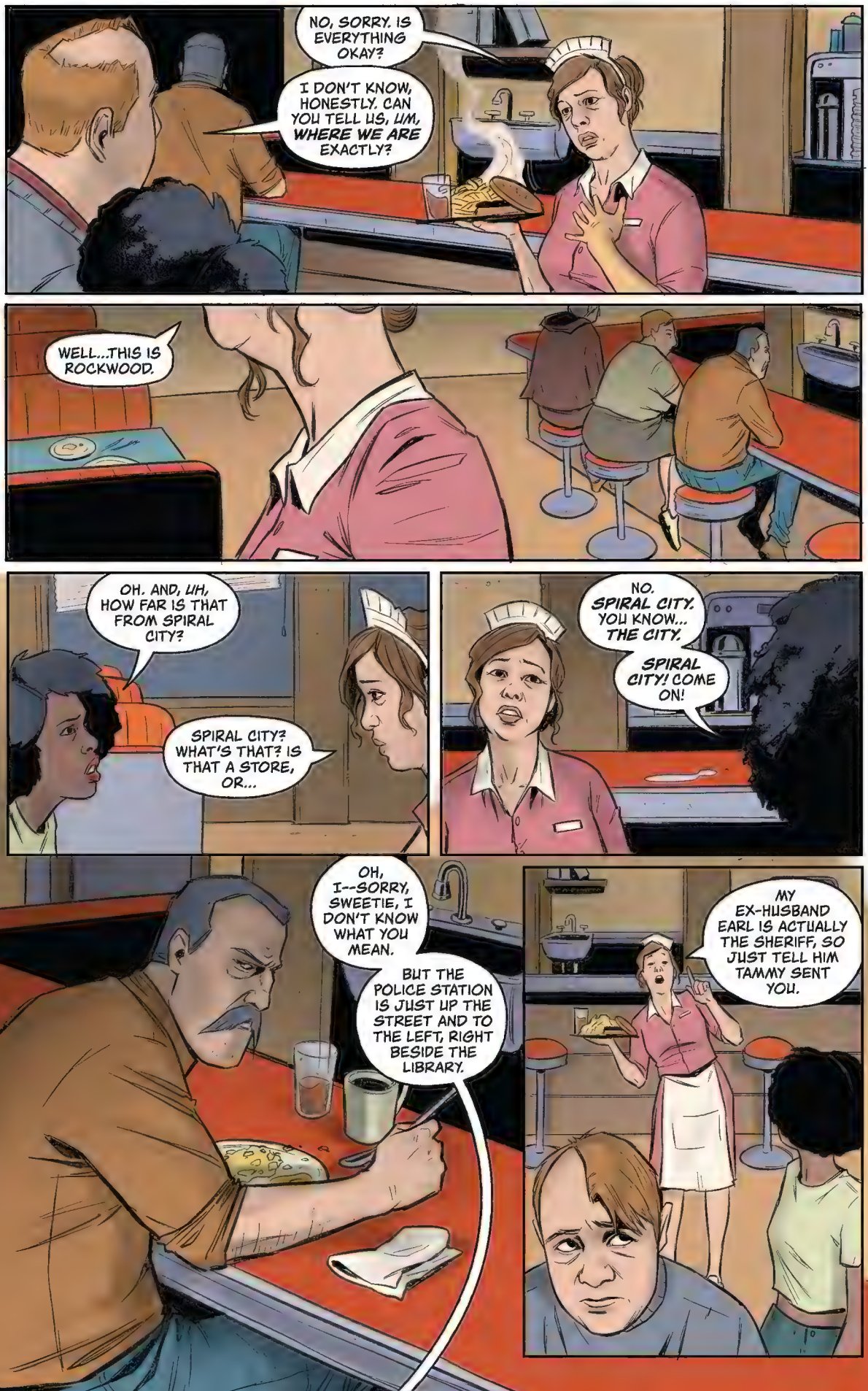
COLONEL!? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
I am...so sorry...Lucy. I...I love you. But...this is what I do...now.
PUT THAT FUCKING RAY-GUN DOWN RIGHT NOW, YOU CRAZY SON OF A BITCH!
Why? You saw--you saw all of them. You know what they are.
SO WHAT?! SO THEY AREN'T PERFECT! BUT THEY ARE MINE!
MOM?
Exactly.
And now they are gone.
SHRACK
NO!

SHRACK
--UNGH!
AHHH!!
DADDY? WHAT--?
ROSIE? YOU OKAY?
I--YEAH. WHAT HAPPENED, DAD?
I DON'T--
WAIT! WHERE'S JOE?

WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER?!
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE!?
JOE?
JOSEPH!
JOE?!
DAD, WHAT ABOUT MOM AND COLONEL WEIRD?! SERIOUSLY, WHERE ARE WE?!
I--I DON'T KNOW, ROSIE.
NONE OF THIS WOULD EVER HAVE HAPPENED IF MOM HADN'T BEEN SUCH A FUCKING COWARD! IF SHE'S JUST STAYED BLACK HAMMER!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MOM HAS BEEN THROUGH!!

YEAH, WELL, MAYBE IF SOMEONE IN OUR FAMILY EVER BOTHERED TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING REAL I WOULD!
LISTEN, WE NEED TO STAY CALM OKAY? I KNOW THIS IS ALL A LOT. BUT RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO FIND YOUR BROTHER.
OKAY, OKAY. HE HAS TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
THERE'S A TOWN OVER THERE. MAYBE HE WENT THAT WAY?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR LEG?
JUST A SPRAIN.
WHY DID COLONEL WEIRD CALL YOU "LIGHTNING ROD"?
...
BECAUSE FOR A REALLY SHORT TIME, LIKE JUST A FEW WEEKS A LONG TIME AGO, I WAS SORT OF A SUPER VILLAIN.
...
OF COURSE YOU WERE.

LOOK, MAYBE WE CAN FIND A POLICE STATION OR SOMETHING AND GET THEM TO HELP US LOOK.
I'M GOING TO ASK SOMEONE IN THERE.
DINER
ASK THEM WHAT?
WHERE THE HELL THIS IS AND WHERE THE COP STATION IS. WHAT DO YOU THINK, DAD?!
WHO ARE YOU GOING TO ASK?
I DON'T KNOW. ANYONE. WHY AM I THE ADULT HERE?!
TABLE FOR TWO?
NO, UM, ACTUALLY WE WERE JUST WONDERING IF YOU SAW A LITTLE BOY? ABOUT ELEVEN?


NO, SORRY. IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW, HONESTLY. CAN YOU TELL US, UM, WHERE WE ARE EXACTLY?
WELL...THIS IS ROCKWOOD.
OH. AND, UH, HOW FAR IS THAT FROM SPIRAL CITY?
SPIRAL CITY? WHAT'S THAT? IS THAT A STORE, OR...
NO. SPIRAL CITY. YOU KNOW... THE CITY.
SPIRAL CITY! COME ON!
OH, I--SORRY, SWEETIE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
BUT THE POLICE STATION IS JUST UP THE STREET AND TO THE LEFT, RIGHT BESIDE THE LIBRARY.
MY EX-HUSBAND EARL IS ACTUALLY THE SHERIFF, SO JUST TELL HIM TAMMY SENT YOU.

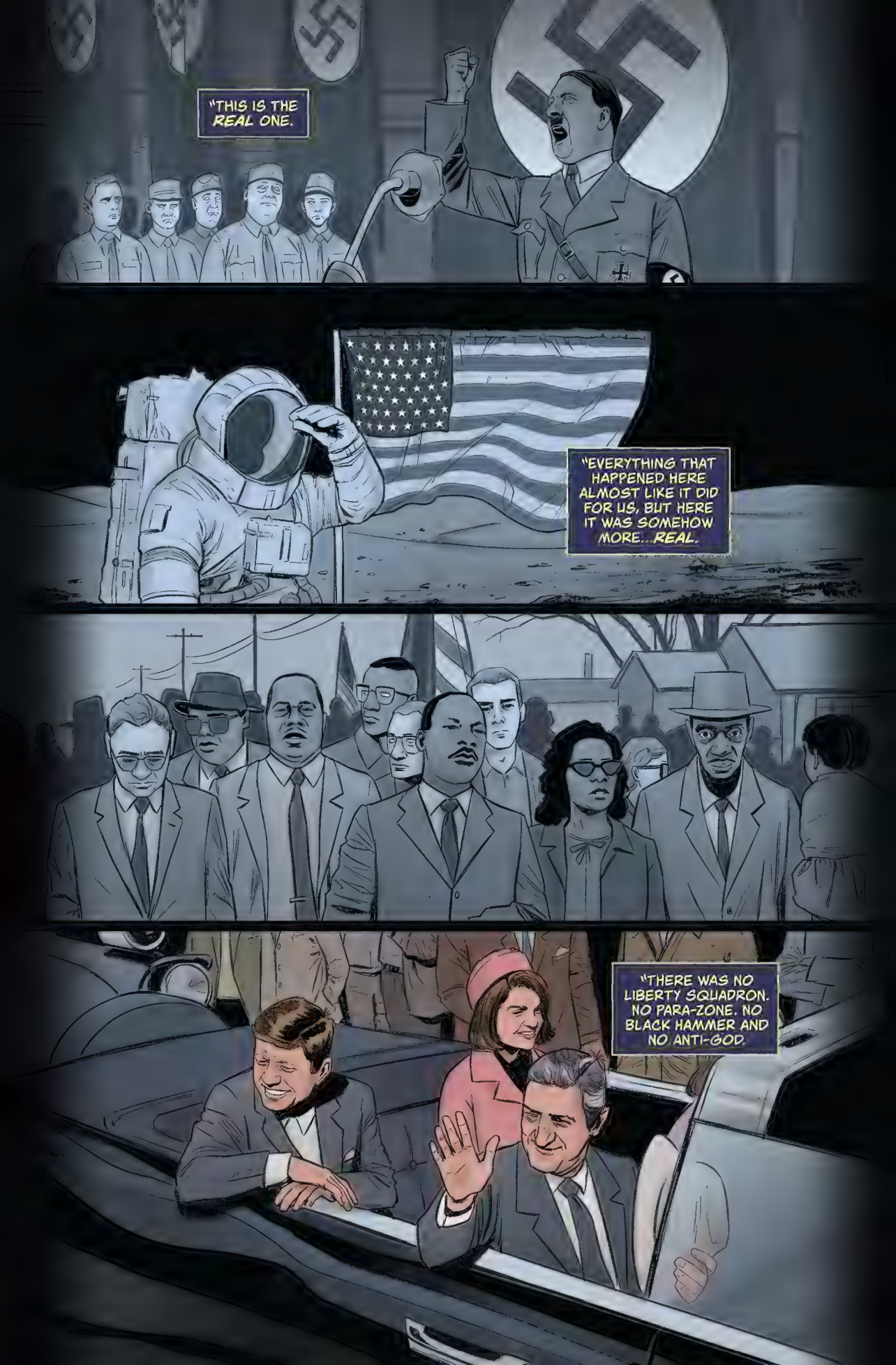
DAD, WHERE DID THAT BEARDO FUCK SEND US?!
I DON'T KNOW BUT WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE, YOUNG LADY! JUST BECAUSE WE'RE LOST DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TO SWEAR LIKE A SAILOR.
GIVE ME A BREAK! WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY, LIGHTNING ROD?!
ROSE!
UH, EXCUSE ME...
I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING YOU IN THERE AND UM... YOU MENTIONED SPIRAL CITY.
YEAH, DO YOU KNOW HOW FAR AWAY WE ARE? WE'RE UH...KIND OF LOST AND--
HOLY SHIT! YOU'RE HIM AREN'T YOU?

SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN THERE, BUDDY, BUT--
ABRAHAM SLAM. YOU'RE ABRAHAM SLAM!
KEEP YOUR GODDAMN VOICE DOWN!
HEY!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU TWO ARE, BUT WE DO NOT SAY THAT NAME AROUND HERE, UNDERSTAND?!
ABE...I--I'M LUCY WEBER'S HUSBAND.

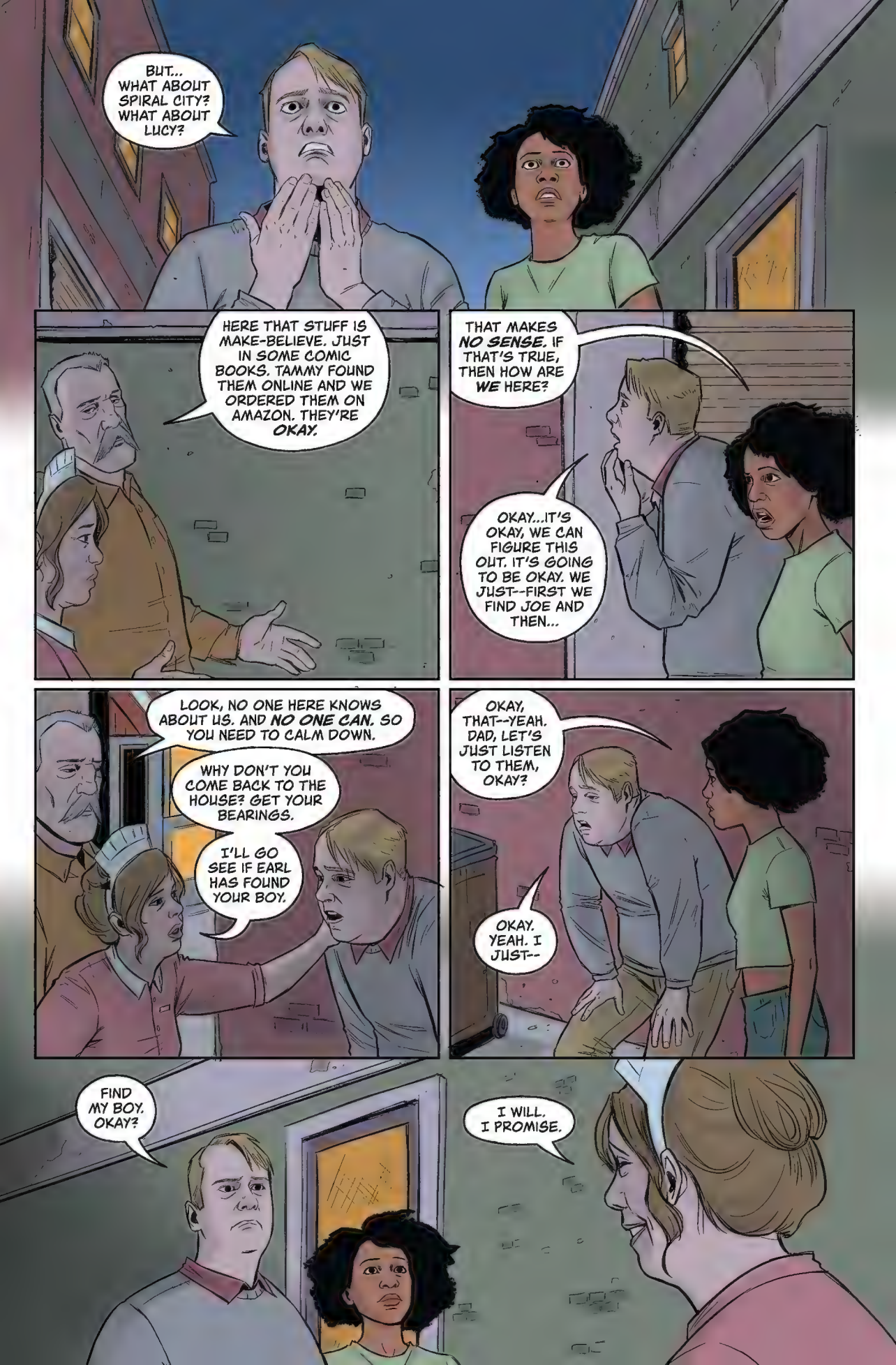
AND I'M HER DAUGHTER, ROSE.
LUCY... LUCY SENT YOU?
NO. NOT EXACTLY. IT WAS COLONEL WEIRD.
WEIRD?!
HE SHOWED UP IN OUR HOUSE, AND THEN HE GAVE MY MOM HER HAMMER AND EVERYTHING GOT CRAZY, AND THEN HE SHOT US WITH HIS RAY GUN, AND WE WERE ZAPPED HERE, BUT MY BROTHER, JOE--WE CAN'T FIND HIM! HE HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE AND WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HERE IS!!
MOTHER OF CHRIST.
IT HAD TO HAPPEN. IT JUST HAD TO HAPPEN, DIDN'T IT?! GOD FORBID WE BE ALLOWED TO ACTUALLY BE HAPPY FOR MORE THAN A FEW DAMNED YEARS BEFORE IT ALL GETS PULLED OUT FROM UNDER US!
ABE? WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE GIG'S UP, TAMMY. WE'VE BEEN MADE.
SHIT.
YEAH.
THEY SAY THEY'RE LUCY'S HUSBAND AND GIRL.
LUCY?!
WOULD YOU *PLEASE* TELL US WHAT THE HELL IS *GOING ON* HERE?!
LOOK, HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE OLD DAYS? US BEING STUCK ON THE FARM? LUCY FINDING US?
ENOUGH.
WELL, WHEN THAT WHOLE SHITSTORM ENDED, *THIS* IS WHERE WEIRD AND DRAGONFLY SENT US.

WHAT? SHE SENT YOU BACK TO THE FARM? I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST SOME ILLUSION SHE CAST IN YOUR MINDS?
IT WAS. BUT THIS TIME IT'S REAL.
DRAGONFLY USED ALL HER POWER TO MAKE A REAL ROCKWOOD, TO POPULATE IT WITH THE PEOPLE WE KNEW. SHE GAVE US A REAL HOME.
WHAT--YOU MEAN THIS IS THIS LIKE A PARALLEL EARTH THING OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NO, YOU DON'T GET IT. THIS IS NO PARALLEL EARTH...

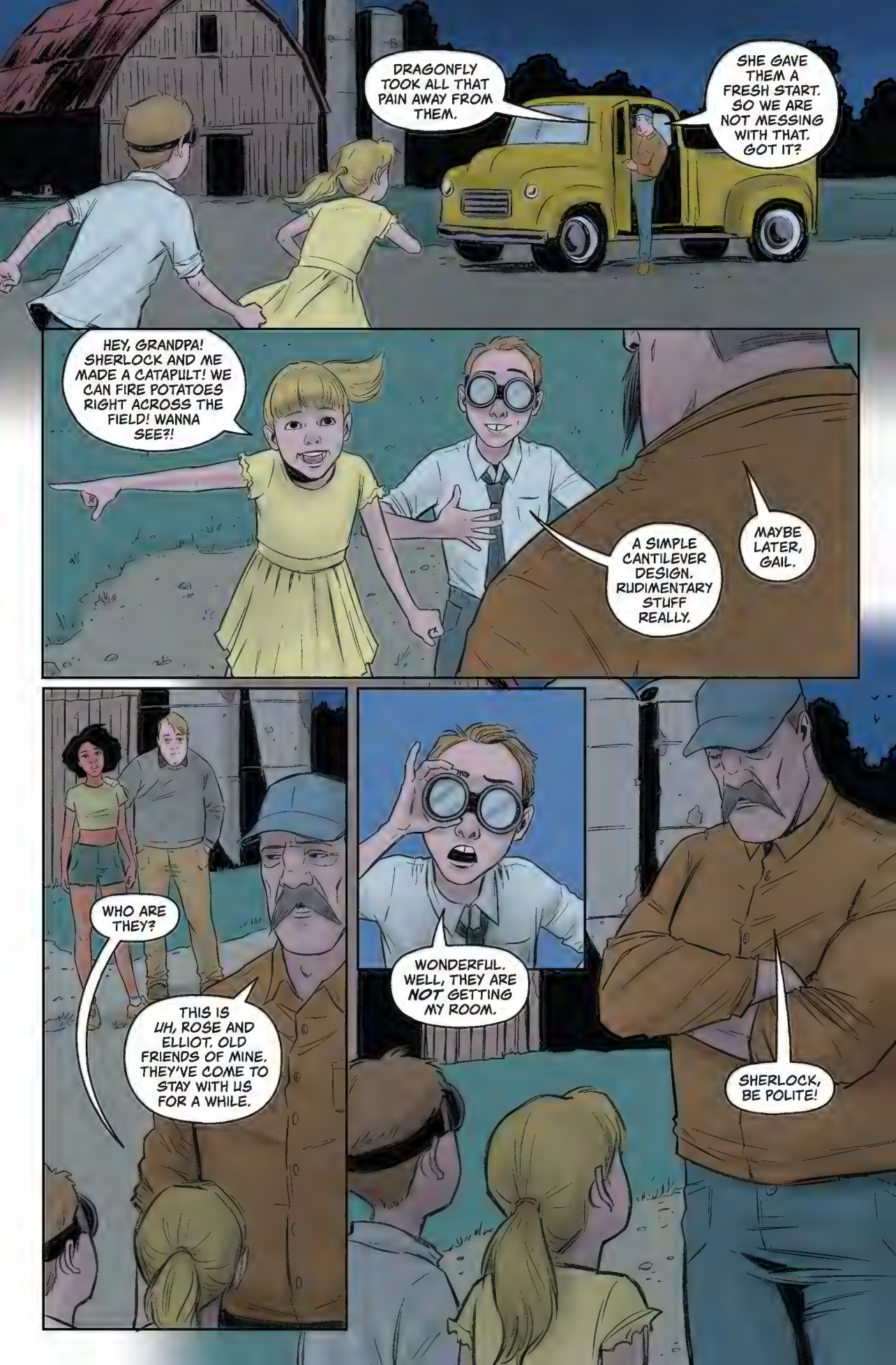

"THIS IS THE REAL ONE.
"EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED HERE ALMOST LIKE IT DID FOR US, BUT HERE IT WAS SOMEHOW MORE...REAL.
"THERE WAS NO LIBERTY SQUADRON. NO PARA-ZONE. NO BLACK HAMMER AND NO ANTI-GOD.

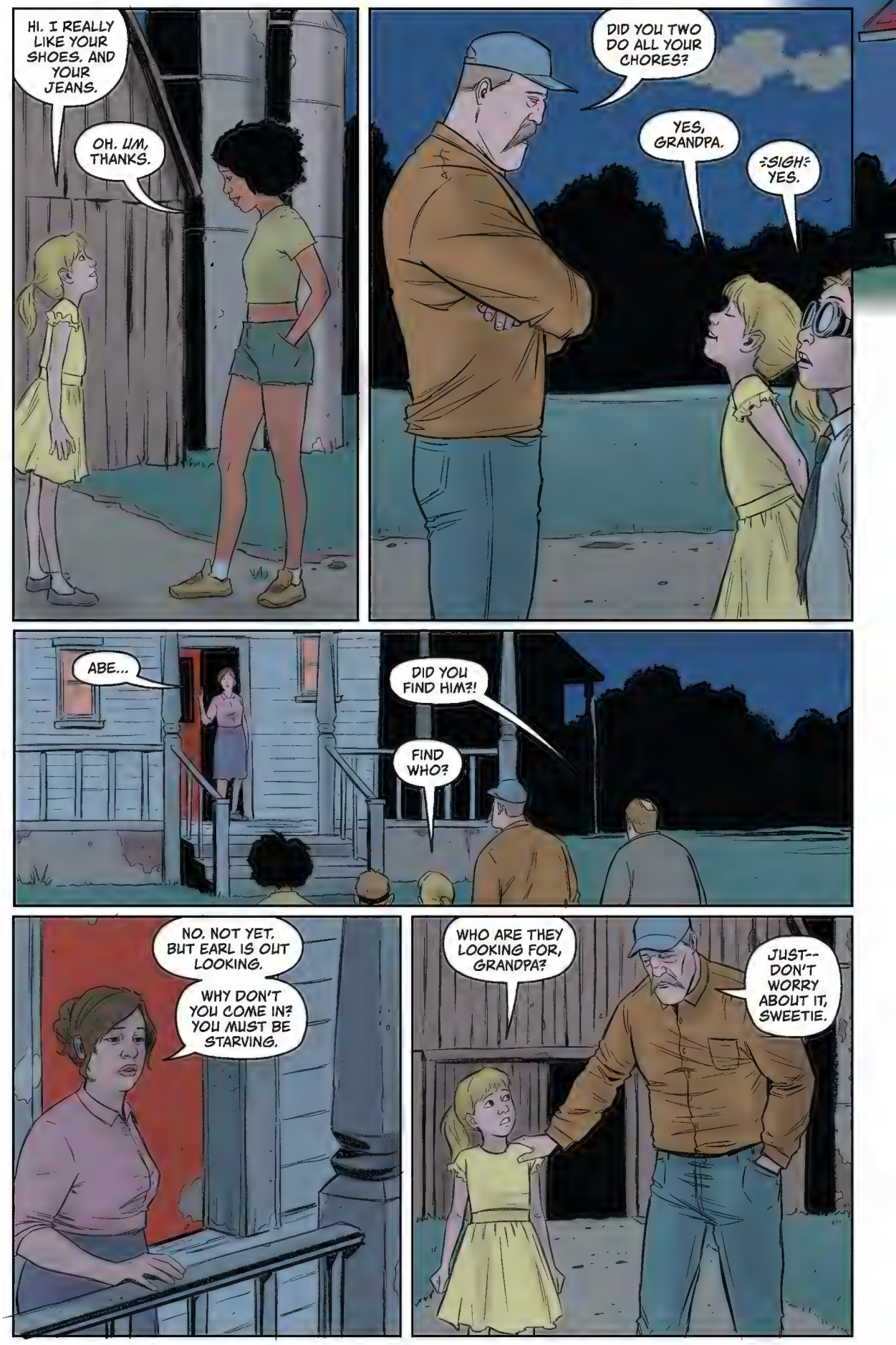
MARINES
"HERE, SUPERHEROES DON'T EXIST, AND WE NEVER DID. THEY ARE JUST CHARACTERS IN MOVIES AND COMIC BOOKS.
"I--I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE WERE BEFORE, BUT THIS--THIS IS THE REAL WORLD."


BUT... WHAT ABOUT SPIRAL CITY? WHAT ABOUT LUCY?
HERE THAT STUFF IS MAKE-BELIEVE. JUST IN SOME COMIC BOOKS. TAMMY FOUND THEM ONLINE AND WE ORDERED THEM ON AMAZON. THEY'RE OKAY.
THAT MAKES NO SENSE. IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN HOW ARE WE HERE?
OKAY...IT'S OKAY, WE CAN FIGURE THIS OUT. IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. WE JUST--FIRST WE FIND JOE AND THEN...
LOOK, NO ONE HERE KNOWS ABOUT US. AND NO ONE CAN. SO YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN.
WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK TO THE HOUSE? GET YOUR BEARINGS.
I'LL GO SEE IF EARL HAS FOUND YOUR BOY.
OKAY, THAT--YEAH. DAD, LET'S JUST LISTEN TO THEM, OKAY?
OKAY. YEAH. I JUST--
FIND MY BOY. OKAY?
I WILL. I PROMISE.

GOTTA SAY, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR MOM.
GAWD... PLEASE.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, FELLA? YOU A MASK TOO? MUST'VE TAKEN QUITE A MAN TO LAND LUCY WEBER.
WHA-- OH. YEAH. I MEAN, NO. NOT A SUPERHERO. I WAS A VILLAIN ACTUALLY. LIGHTNING ROD.
THAT NAME IS *THE WORST.*
IT WAS THE NINETIES, OKAY?! BUT ONCE I MET YOUR MOM I GAVE THAT ALL UP.
LIGHTNING ROD? I'M NOT SURE I EVEN *WANT TO KNOW* WHAT YOUR POWERS WERE.

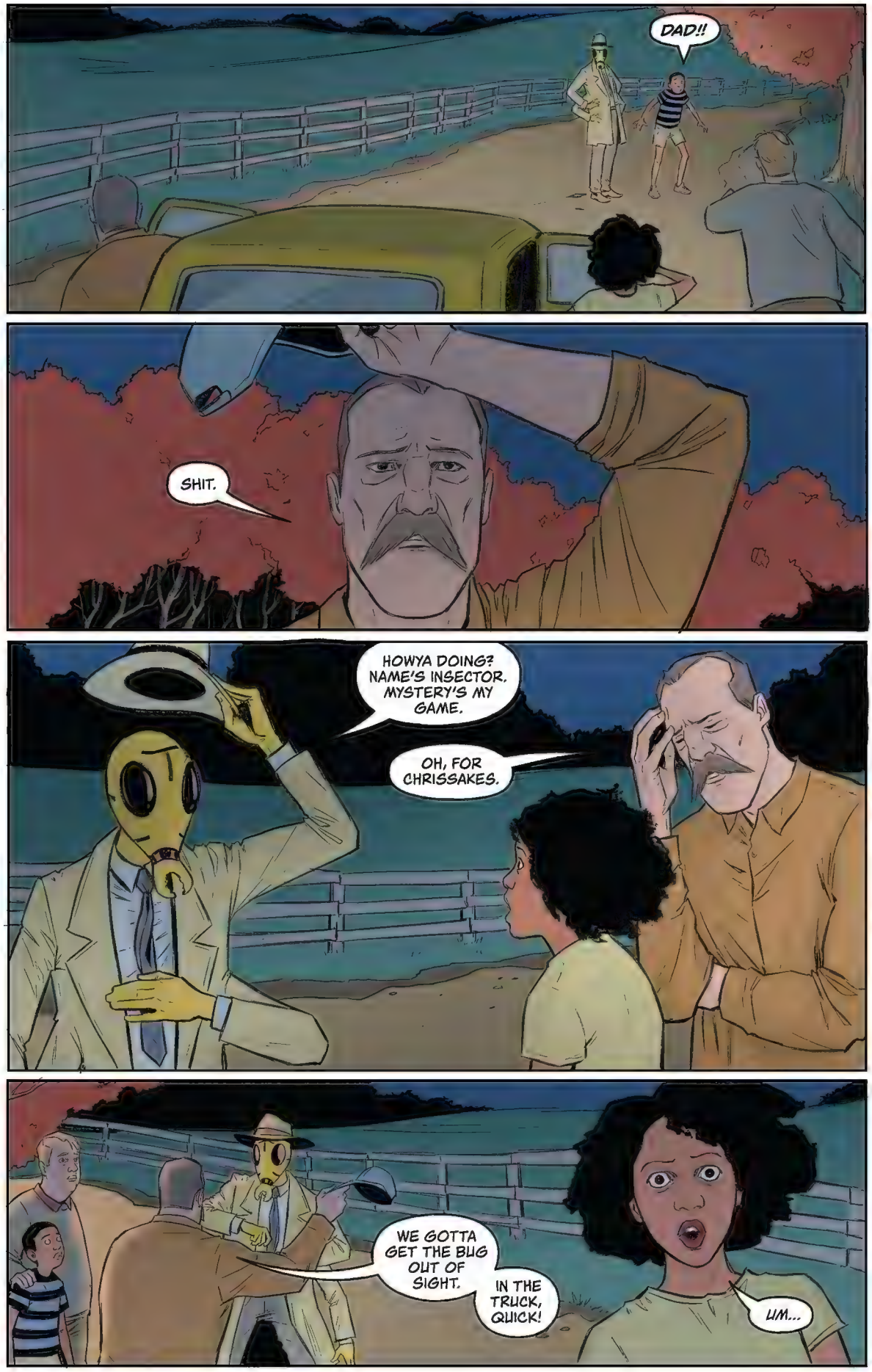
A REFORM JOB, EH? WELL, CAN'T SAY IT'S THE FIRST TIME.
WHAT, HEROES MARRYING VILLAINS? IS THAT COMMON?
WELL, NOT ALWAYS MARRIAGE...BUT YOU KNOW...LET'S JUST SAY OPPOSITES TEND TO ATTRACT.
GROSS.
I MEAN THERE WAS SKULLDIGGER AND BIJOU.
HELL, I EVEN HAD A THING WITH MINDTHROWER FOR A QUICK MINUTE IN THE SEVENTIES.
AND OF COURSE THERE WAS GAIL AND SHERLOCK.
GOLDEN GAIL?! SHE'S HERE?!
HEH. SHE SURE IS. AND THAT BRINGS ME TO THE NEXT TOPIC OF DISCUSSION...
...LOOK, WHEN DRAGONFLY MADE THIS PLACE AND POPPED IT HERE, SHE ALSO DID SOME THINGS TO US TO MAKE US ALL A BIT...WELL, A BIT MORE CONTENT THAN WE WERE THE FIRST TIME AROUND.
SO, LOOK, GAIL AND SHERLOCK ARE HERE, BUT THEY DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT...
...NOT BEING SUPERHEROES, NONE OF IT. THEY GOT A FRESH START AND WE WANNA KEEP IT THAT WAY, OKAY?
SO, YOU'RE LYING TO THEM NOW?
LYING? LOOK, ELLIOT, YOU WEREN'T THERE. LAST TIME WE WERE ON THE FARM, BARBIE AND GAIL...THEY WERE MISERABLE. I MEAN THEY WERE DEEPLY AND PROFOUNDLY UNHAPPY.


DRAGONFLY TOOK ALL THAT PAIN AWAY FROM THEM.
SHE GAVE THEM A FRESH START. SO WE ARE NOT MESSING WITH THAT. GOT IT?
HEY, GRANDPA! SHERLOCK AND ME MADE A CATAPULT! WE CAN FIRE POTATOES RIGHT ACROSS THE FIELD! WANNA SEE?!
A SIMPLE CANTILEVER DESIGN. RUDIMENTARY STUFF REALLY.
MAYBE LATER, GAIL.
WHO ARE THEY?
THIS IS UH, ROSE AND ELLIOT. OLD FRIENDS OF MINE. THEY'VE COME TO STAY WITH US FOR A WHILE.
WONDERFUL. WELL, THEY ARE NOT GETTING MY ROOM.
SHERLOCK, BE POLITE!


HI. I REALLY LIKE YOUR SHOES. AND YOUR JEANS.
OH. UM, THANKS.
DID YOU TWO DO ALL YOUR CHORES?
YES, GRANDPA.
=SIGH= YES.
ABE...
DID YOU FIND HIM?!
FIND WHO?
NO. NOT YET. BUT EARL IS OUT LOOKING.
WHY DON'T YOU COME IN? YOU MUST BE STARVING.
WHO ARE THEY LOOKING FOR, GRANDPA?
JUST-- DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SWEETIE.

SHRACK
WHAT'S THAT?!
HMM... FASCINATING.
NOW WHAT?
DAD! MAYBE IT'S MOM! MAYBE SHE CAME TO GET US!
GAIL, SHERLOCK, GO INSIDE AND CLEAN UP FOR DINNER.
WHERE YOU GOING, GRANDPA?! CAN I COME?
NO. INSIDE NOW, YOUNG LADY.

IF IT IS YOUR MOM, SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US FIND JOE TOO.
LOOK, WHATEVER IT IS, YOU GOTTA PROMISE ME YOU ARE GOING TO KEEP IT QUIET. WE FIND YOUR BOY, AND YOU ALL GO HOME QUIETLY GOT IT?!
LIKE THIS IS OUR FAULT?!
BESIDES, MAYBE IF YOU PEOPLE DIDN'T CREATE ELABORATE RUSES AND CONSTANTLY LIE TO ONE ANOTHER, YOU WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE SO FUCKING STRESSED OUT!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO JUDGE ANYTHING WE DO, MR. LIGHTNING ROD?!
SERIOUSLY, DAD! HYPOCRITE MUCH?! UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE A SUPER VILLIAN!
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK IN THE DAMNED MIRROR BEFORE YOU THROW STONES THERE, ELLIOT!
LOOK OUT!
SCREECH!


DAD!!
SHIT.
HOWYA DOING? NAME'S INSECTOR. MYSTERY'S MY GAME.
OH, FOR CHRISSAKES.
WE GOTTA GET THE BUG OUT OF SIGHT.
IN THE TRUCK, QUICK!
UM...

...I THINK IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE.

SO MANY EARTHS. ALL HEADED FOR A COLLISION.
I DON'T SAY THIS OFTEN, GENTLEMEN, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO. I DON'T--I DON'T THINK EVEN I CAN STOP THIS.
THIS IS--THIS IS NOT HOW IT IS SUPPOSED TO END. NOT FOR ME.
DIGGER?
HANG IN THERE. WE'LL GET YOU HELP. IT'S NOT OVER YET.
COME ON, DOC, WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE WAY SMARTER THAN THAT.
ALWAYS THOUGHT I WOULD DIE IN THE STREETS. NOT LIKE THIS.
ANDROMEDA! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!
SOMETHING'S COMING!

IT MAY BE MORE OF BLACK HAMMER'S AGENTS! BE READY FOR ANYTHING!
We are no... agents...
...We are... Weird.
COLONEL?!
Colonels... actually. And a couple generals too.
We are... The Parliament of Weird. Hello...Doctor Andromeda. I have... missed you.

WELL, COLONELS, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH ALL THIS CHAOS. YOUR CONNECTION TO PARA-ENERGY IS--
--All that may yet save us.
We have... little time...he will soon... arrive.
ARRIVE? AS USUAL, YOU ARE CONFUSED.
BLACK HAMMER HAS ALREADY COME AND GONE. THE DAMAGE IS DONE! THE MULTIVERSE IS UNRAVELING!
Black Hammer? No...not him. It is who Black Hammer shall summon that we speak of...
...Anti-God. Anti-God will soon return.
It is true. I have...seen it.
The Final Cataclysm is...about to begin.

ANTI-GOD? HE'S DEAD.
No. Only...sleeping. But soon he wakes.
THEN WE'RE ALL DEAD.
No...the battle is not yet lost. An army.
You shall gather...an army.
AND HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?
THAT IS EASY, SHERLOCK. I HAVE BEEN MAKING A MAP...A MAP OF THE PARA-VERSE.
IT IS STORED IN MY ARCHIVE COMPUTER ABOARD THE COLONEL'S SHIP. WITH IT WE CAN NAVIGATE THE EARTHS AND FIND THE ALLIES WE NEED.

:HAK!:
:COUGH!:
HANG ON, DIGGER!
CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS. DOC. CAN BARELY SEE ANYTHING, GOING BLACK. SEND ME HOME. TO MY CITY.
You do not...die... Skulldigger.
Not in your streets... and not like... this.
YOU GUYS KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T?
Of course... we do...
We know...many things...that you...do not.

YOU'RE KILLING HIM!
No...this is not the pain of death... but birth...
ARRRGHHH!
We have made you into what you will need to be...
...SPACEDIGGER!
WHAT--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!

THE HAMMER, LUCY. IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE, I WILL AT LEAST TAKE YOUR HAMMER.
IT'S NOT--NOT MY HAMMER...
...IT'S MY FATHER'S.
AND I'LL DIE BEFORE I SEE A MONSTER LIKE YOU TAKE IT.
WHOOM
UNGH!

I SHOULD KILL YOU. I SHOULD KILL YOU JUST LIKE I'VE KILLED THE OTHERS...
BUT I CAN'T. YOU'RE TOO MUCH LIKE HER. TOO MUCH LIKE MY LITTLE GIRL.
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BE HER?!
KRA-KOOOOOM

NO. I CAN'T KILL YOU, LUCY.
BUT I WON'T SAVE YOU EITHER.
SHRACK!!
GOODBYE, LUCY.

BOOM
I GOT HER.
HURRY! WE NEED TO GO NOW!

THE PARA-ZONE.
LUCY? LUCY CAN YOU HEAR ME, DEAR?
LUCY?
DOC?
YES, DEAR. IT'S ME. JUST TAKE IT EASY. YOU'VE HAD A BIT OF A FALL, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.
WAIT A MINUTE--THIS SHIP. THIS IS--
Hello... Lucy.

MOTHER-FUCKER!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, WEIRD! KILL YOU!
EASY!
GET OFF OF ME!
No...let her go.
AND WHY SHOULD WE DO THAT, COLONEL?
Because... this is what happens...
She will not kill me...

AND WHY THE HELL NOT? YOU KILLED THEM! YOU KILLED MY FAMILY!
No, Lucy...I did not kill them...I simply did as...you asked me to.
If you trust me...if you take...my hand...I will take you to...
TAKE ME WHERE?
To them. To the place outside of places...
NO MORE OF YOUR MIND GAMES! IF YOU--IF YOU'RE LYING TO ME--
I lied to you once...Lucy. Dragonfly and I...we lied to all of you--Abe, Gail, Mark...never again.

WHAT ABOUT ANTI-GOD?! WHAT ABOUT *OUR MISSION?*

Talky Walky has the map...of the Para-verse... she is all you need.

KRACK!!

WAIT-- THIS IS--

Yes. *The farm*...this is where...I sent them.

BUT--I THOUGHT THE FARM WAS UNREACHABLE?! IS THIS THE PAST?
No. This is...now.
BUT--WHEN DRAGONFLY REMADE THE FARM--WE PROMISED TO LEAVE THEM ALONE, COLONEL!
Indeed... rebuilding Rockwood and its inhabitants... took so much of...Dragonfly's power...
And... I assure you...they are safe.
At first...I didn't know what this place was...where she sent them...but now I do. It is the real world. The world beyond The Para-verse... the world beyond our stories.
This is where... you will ask me to send them.
This is...the only place they can be spared from...what is coming.

NO!
IT--IT CAN'T BE THEM!
It...is. They are...alive. Safe.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND? WHEN DID I ASK YOU TO DO THIS?
You are about to. When you fully understand... the choice.
THE CHOICE? I DON'T--WHAT CHOICE?
The choice...that your entire life...has led you to...
Anti-God is...returning. A second Cataclysm is at hand.
To stop it...we need you...we will need Black Hammer.
Or... You can stay here...Lucy. On the farm...with your family...safe from it all...as our world dies.

I'M NOT BLACK HAMMER ANYMORE. HE TOOK THE HAMMER. HE TOOK MY POWER.
It takes more...than a hammer...to be a hero, Lucy.
Your father always... knew that.

COLONEL...I NEED YOU TO SEND THEM HERE WHEN THE TIME COMES. NO MATTER WHAT I SAY. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
You know...that I do.
And you... Lucy?
MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN MADNESS. SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. SINCE I LOST MY DAD.
I HAVE A CHANCE TO SPARE MY CHILDREN FROM THAT NOW. A SECOND CHANCE.
I'M NOT A HERO ANYMORE, COLONEL...I'M A MOTHER. AND I AM GOING TO KEEP MY CHILDREN SAFE.

Are you sure? Once I leave, you will be here...forever...I will not return.
YOU BETTER NOT.
GOODBYE, COLONEL.

SHRACK
COLONEL?! WHERE IS LUCY?
Lucy? Lucy is...gone. She made her choice... Black Hammer is no more.
IF THAT'S TRUE...THEN IT'S ALREADY OVER. WE'VE LOST.
COLONEL! COME QUICKLY!
NO! IT CAN'T BE!
I FEAR WE ARE TOO LATE...
IT IS, DOCTOR...

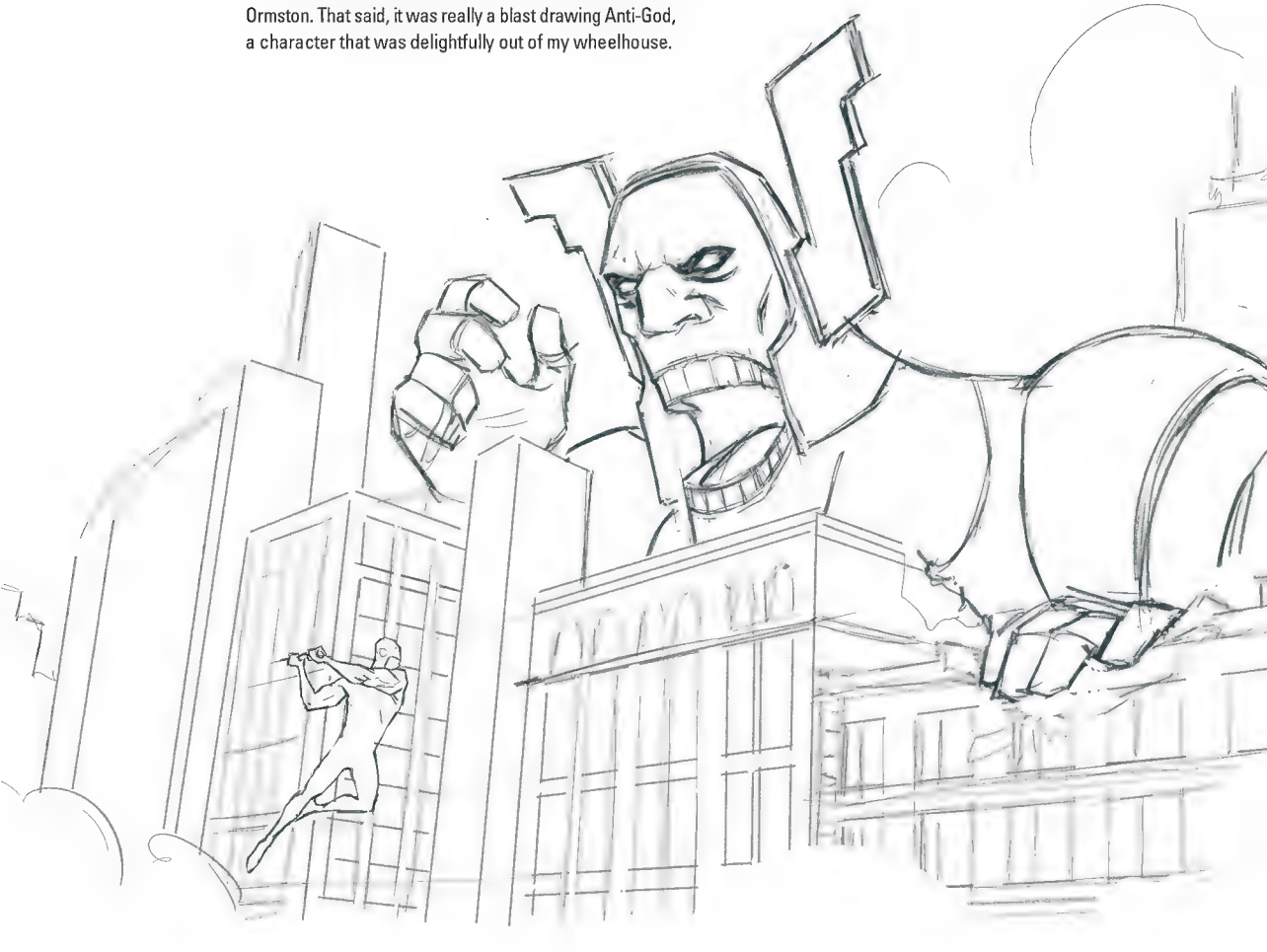
"...THE CATACLYSM HAS BEGUN."

Vanesa del Rey *Black Hammer: Reborn* #5 Web Exclusive Variant

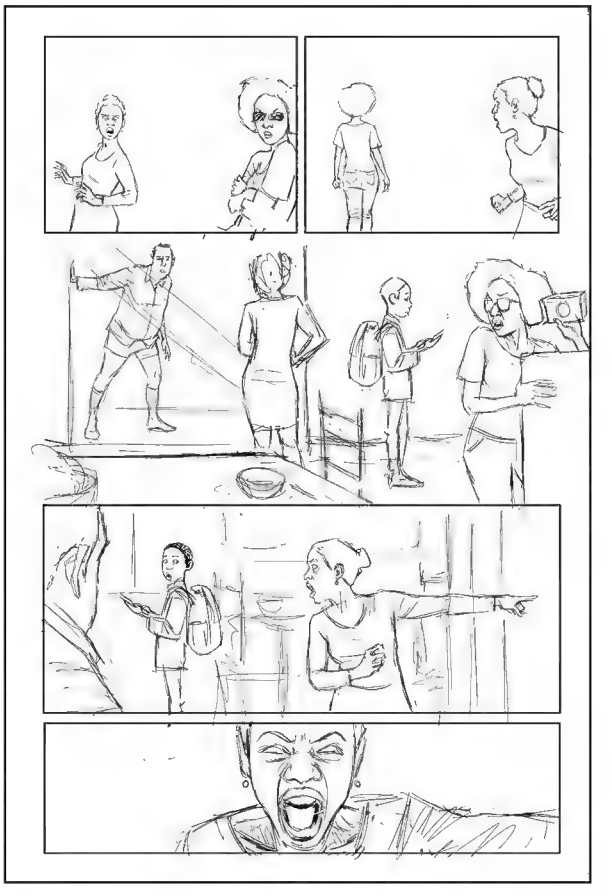
BLACK HAMMER REBORN SKETCHBOOK

NOTES BY CAITLIN YARSKY, MALACHI WARD, AND MATTHEW SHEEAN

I started drawing in order, so page one was really nerve wracking. It was the moment when the project became real, and I realized what big shoes I had to fill after Dean Ormston. That said, it was really a blast drawing Anti-God, a character that was delightfully out of my wheelhouse.



I remember taking some inspiration from Philip Seymour Hoffman for Elliot's "suburban dad" look, and pushing the feeling that he was weak (in the past and present).



The therapy scene dialogue infuriated me and was where I saw how self-centered Elliot was (and it was fun adding little Easter eggs like the "patience" sloth motivational poster).

For the Colonel Weird cover, I borrowed from the old wartime recruiting poster of Uncle Sam. The other covers had me looking up reference of everything from factory machinery to microscopic "water bears." Google doesn't know what to make of me.

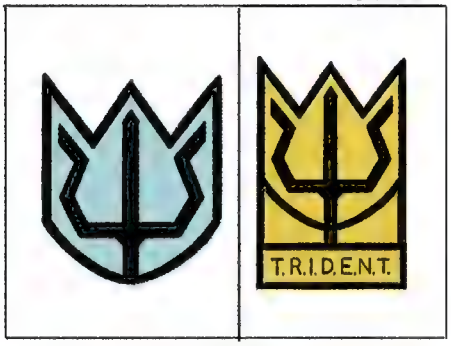
20s
40s
PRESENT DAY HAMMER HAS MORE DISTINCTION BETWEEN MAJOR MUSCLES
YOUNG HAMMER HAS ROUNDER SHAPES AND LOW DEFINITION
DELTOID CONTINUOUS W/ TRICEP
LESS HIP/ WAIST RATIO
LUCY WEBER: BLACK HAMMER!

One aspect of cartooning that's notoriously difficult is drawing a character at different ages without just resorting to a gray streak in the hair and a few extra lines on the face. Matt and I made sure to work out Lucy's aging before starting.

T.R.I.D.E.N.T.

DESIGNS BY
MATT & MALACHI

LOGOS



HELMET FOR MORE SWAT-LIKE OPERATIONS

We actually started our run before Caitlin had begun the first issue, so we got a chance to design TRIDENT. We tried to pull in equal parts Steranko and GI Joe.

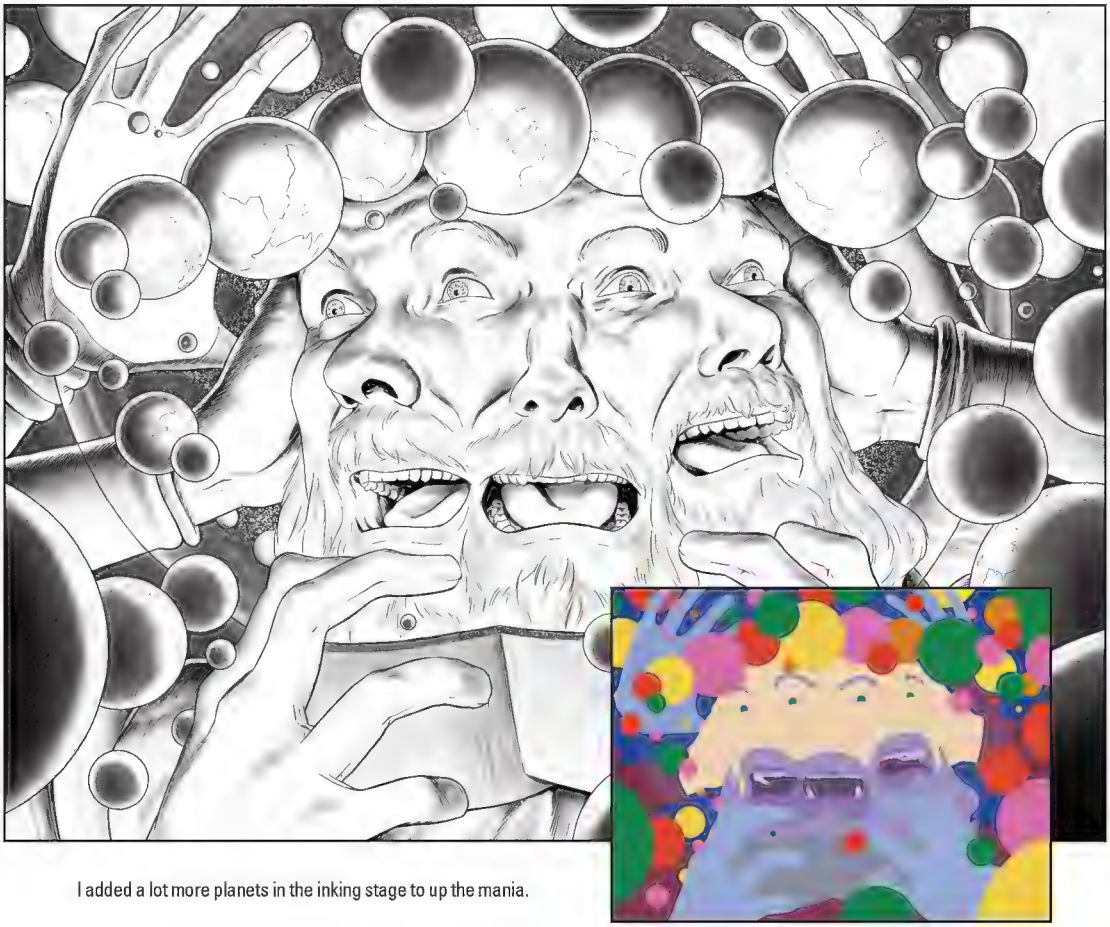
"AGENT 1" COMMAND LEVEL GUY THAT ONLY TURNS UP FOR CRITICAL MISSIONS (PROB. NOT 'TIL #5?)

GIVE AGENTS UNIQUE TECH/WEAPONS MODIFICATIONS TO SUGGEST SPECIALIZATION.

TYPICAL TRIDENT OFFICER

LAST NAME UNDER LOGO

SCI-FI GUNS



I added a lot more planets in the inking stage to up the mania.

PAGE 14.

1.
BIG PANEL.

They watch as Lucy flies off the rooftop and upwards.

LUCY: But I'm going to find out.

LUCY CAPTION: I'm just on autopilot now. Not even really thinking about what I'm doing or why. It's all like a dream. Surreal.

2.
Lucy flies straight up, Spiral Below her.

LUCY CAPTION: I just keep going, let old muscle memory take over. Because if I stop—if I stop I'll have to *think.* And if I have to think, I'll have to face what just *happened to them.*

PAGE 15.

1.
This is almost a mirror of the last panel on the previous page, except now Lucy is flying straight down towards the Other Spiral.

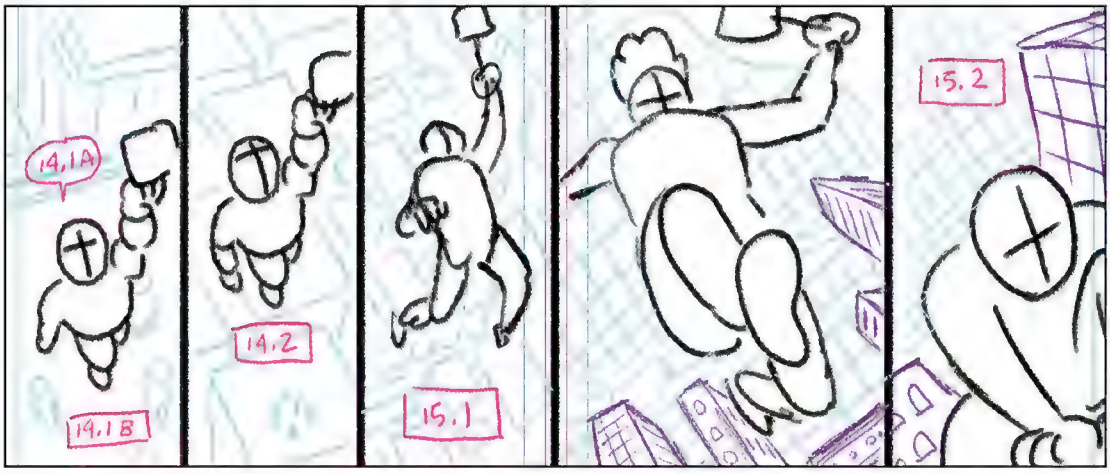
LUCY CAPTION: So I fly up and then suddenly I'm actually *flying down.*

SFX: -EEP! EEP!

2.
Lucy now flies downwards towards another rooftop very similar to the one she left.

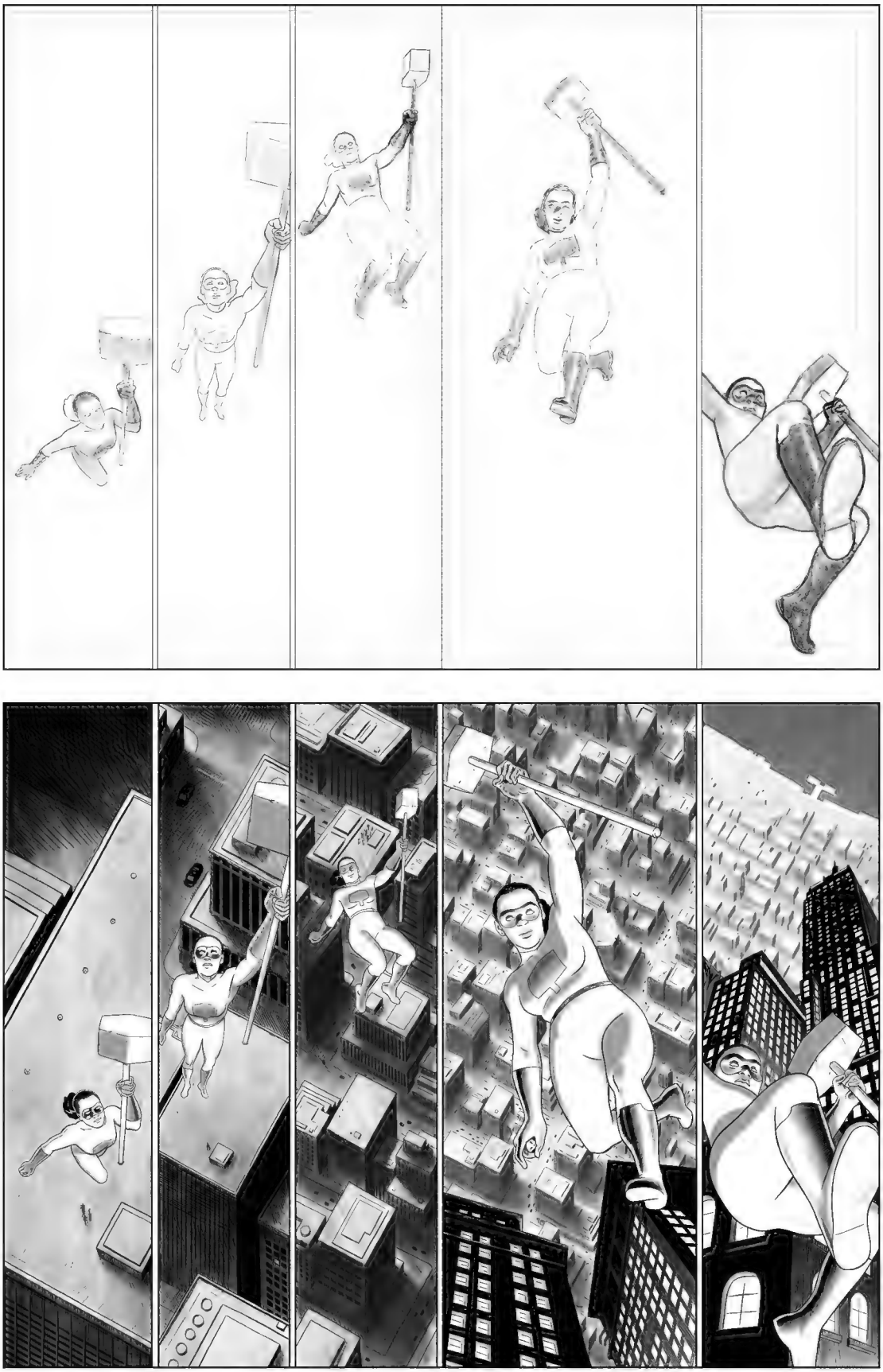
LUCY CAPTION: All I know is this thing was in Rosie's room.

SFX: EEP –EEP –EEP! (getting louder)

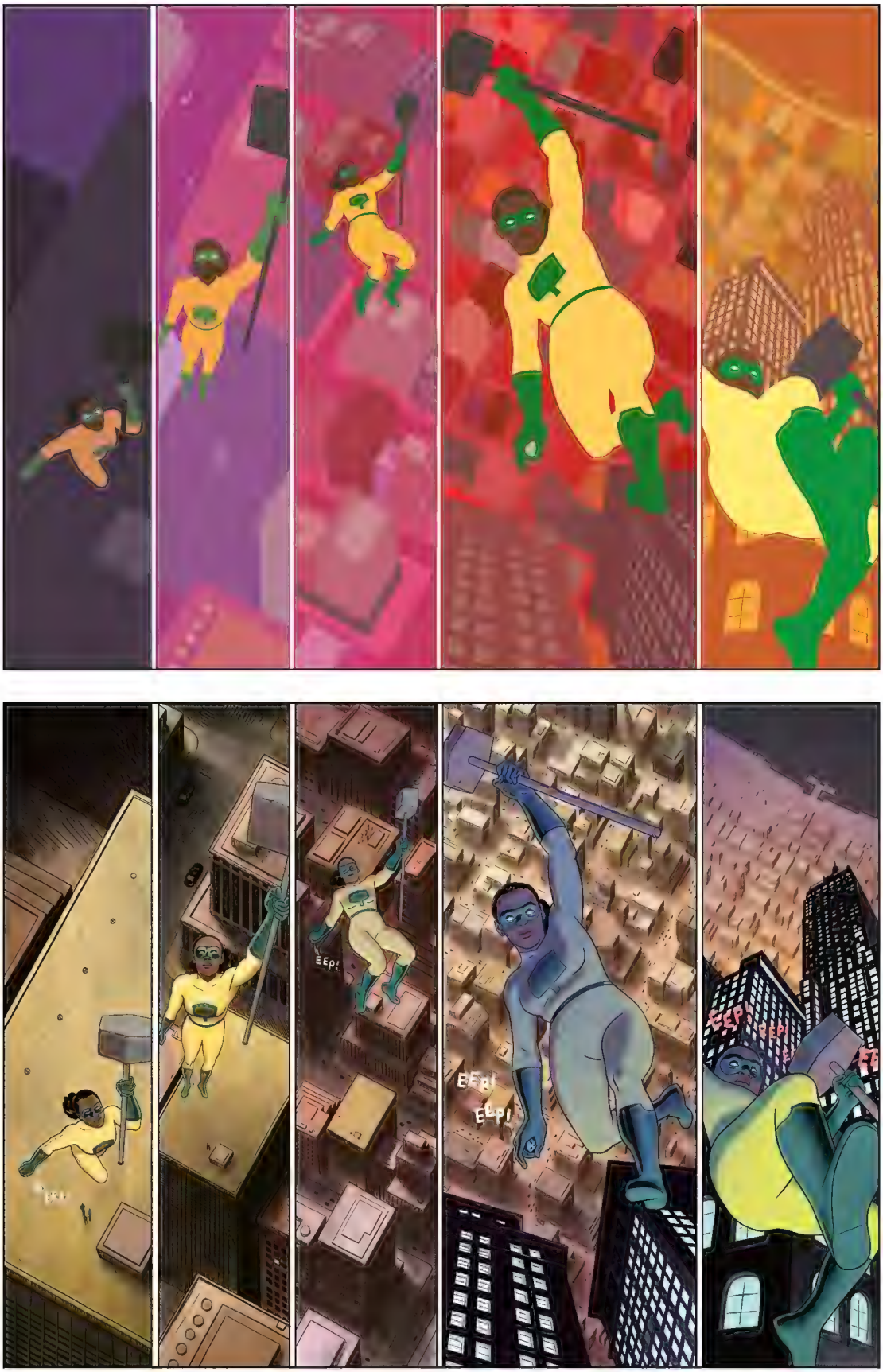


BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT.
I'M JUST ON AUTOPILOT NOW. NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING OR WHY. IT'S ALL LIKE A DREAM. SURREAL.
EEP!
I JUST KEEP GOING, LET OLD MUSCLE MEMORY TAKE OVER. BECAUSE IF I STOP—IF I STOP I'LL HAVE TO THINK. I'LL HAVE TO FACE WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO THEM.
SO I FLY UP AND THEN SUDDENLY I'M ACTUALLY FLYING DOWN.
EEP!
EEP!
ALL I KNOW IS THIS THING WAS IN ROSIE'S ROOM.
EEP!
EEP!
14
15

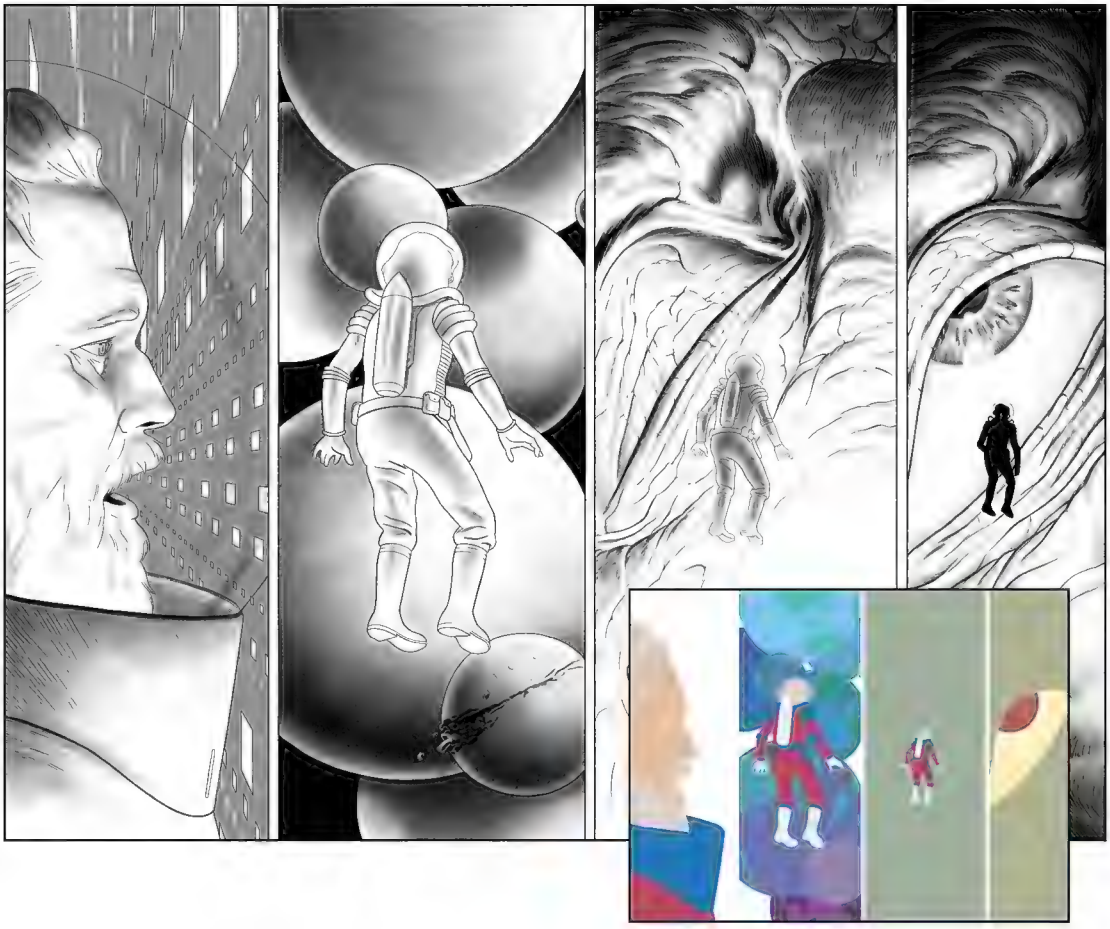
The script, my layout, then Matt's layout. I really wanted to capture the disorientation of Lucy flying from one rooftop onto an upside-down rooftop. Lots of adjustments to get it just right.



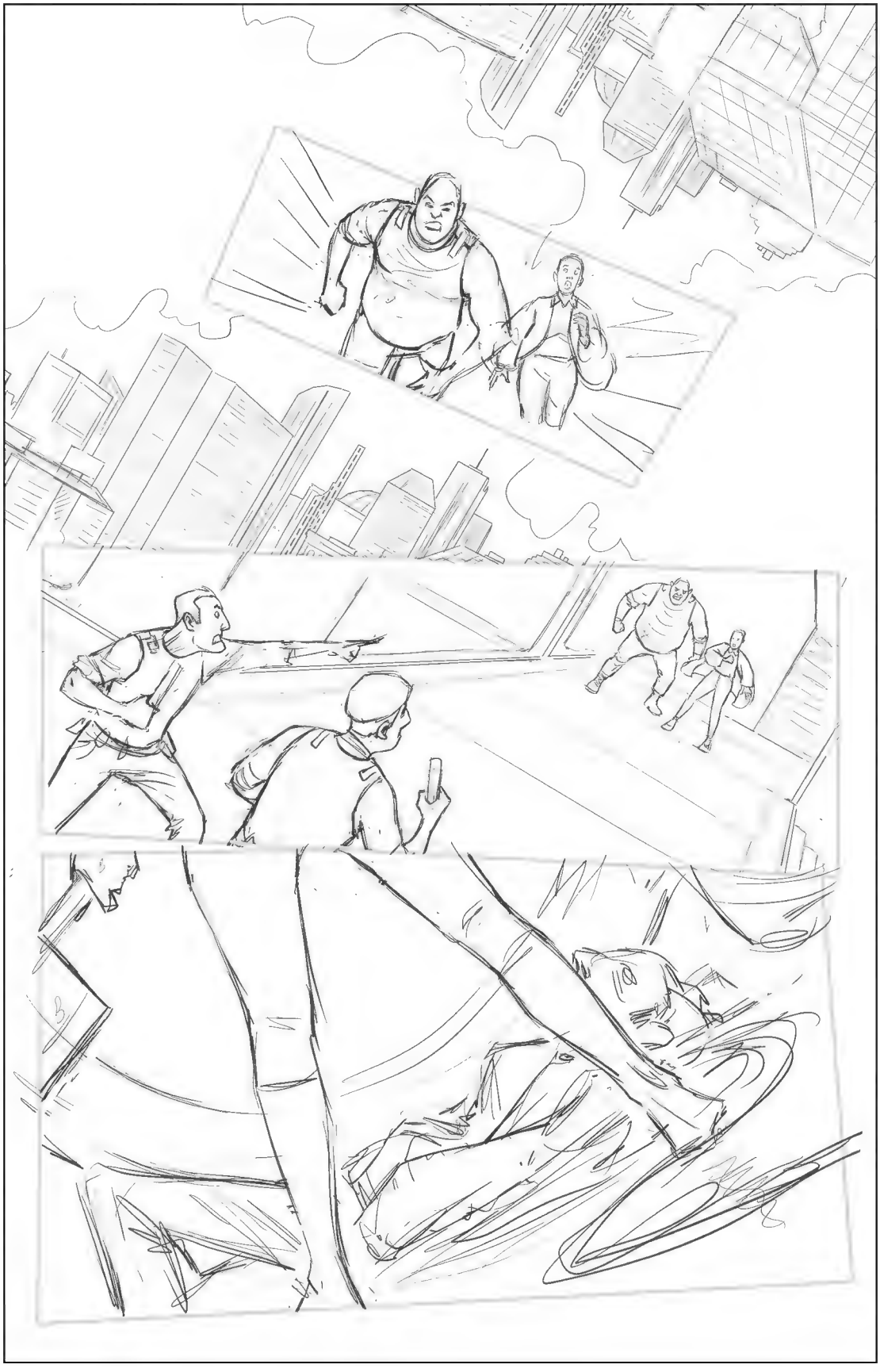
This is the only time where Matt drew the figures and I drew the backgrounds. We also adjusted the angle and size of the fourth Lucy for a cleaner flow across the spread.



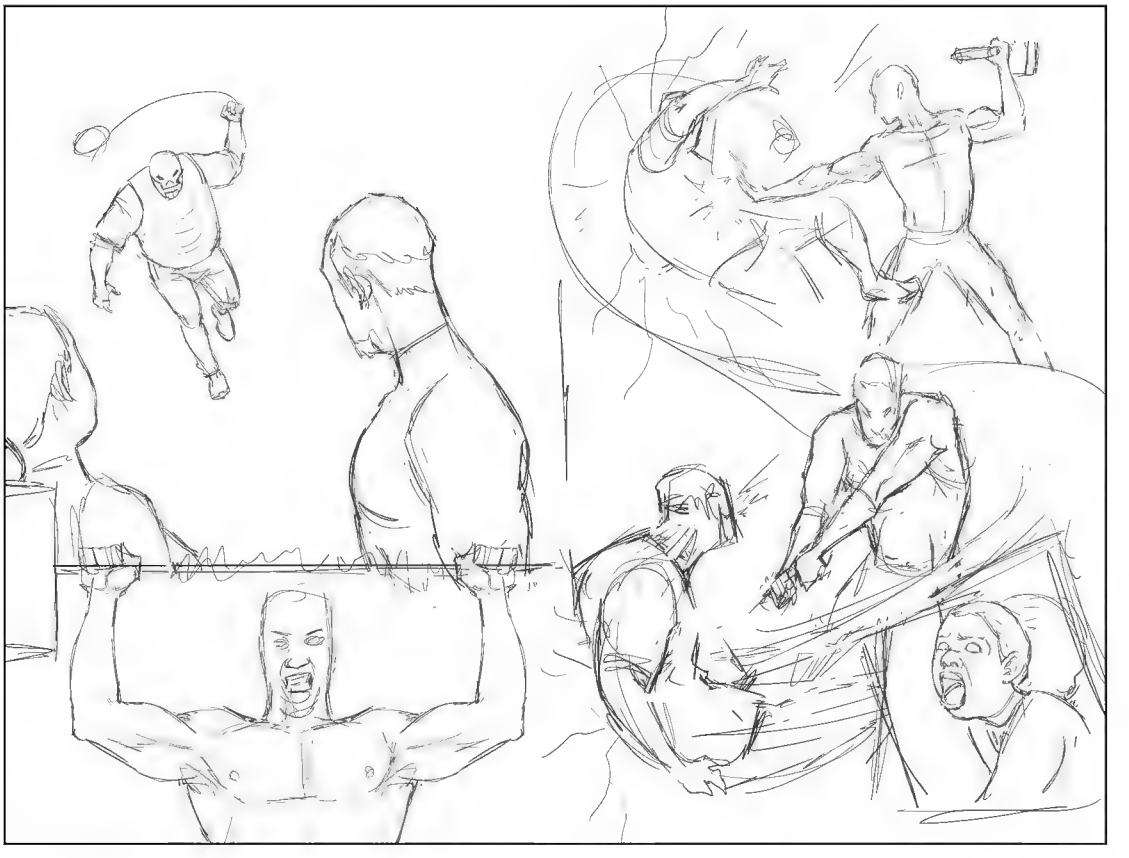
I really liked how Bryce's color flats looked on this spread. If it wasn't important that it's the same background receding back I probably would've gone for the cool gradient he used.



We had basically one spread to go full crisis mode. It's both a pain and fun to do these destroyed-city sequences. Might have more of those in the future . . .



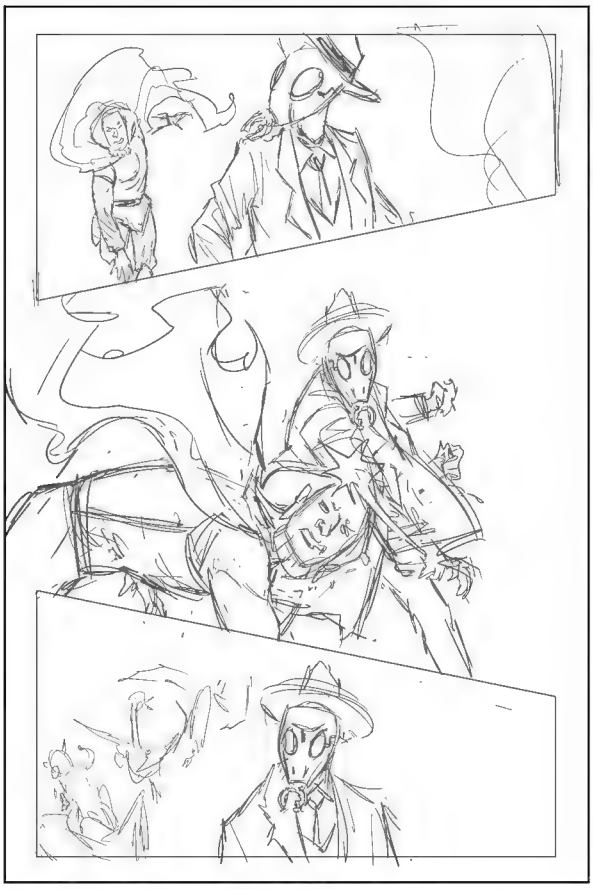
The panel with the Polaroid reminds you what is fueling Lucy's rage. Although there are other things to think about, this all-encompassing grief is what's sending her back into superhero mode.



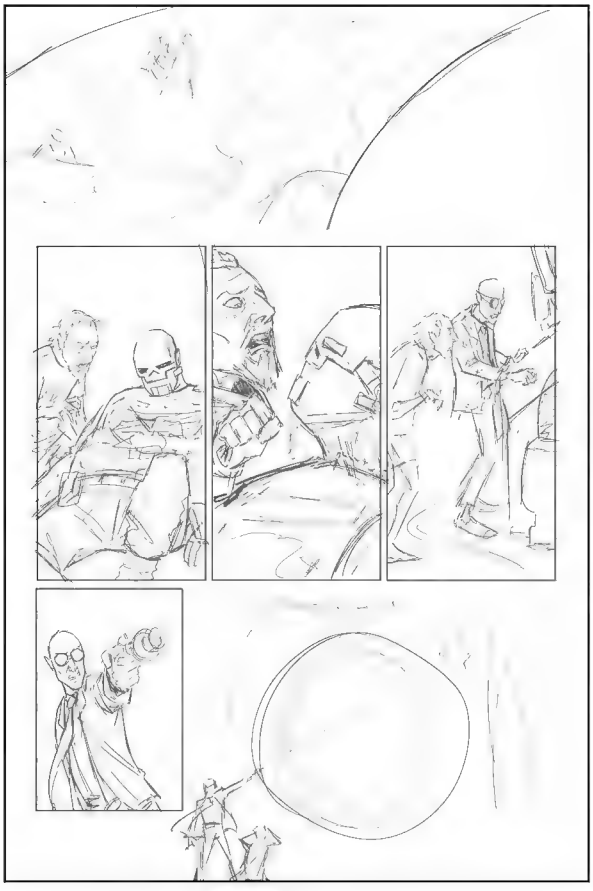
Action never felt like my strong suit, so I've been trying to push myself with it—and it turned out to be really fun, exaggerating Skulldigger's pose to emphasize how hard he was hit. It feels a little like doing key frames for animation, which also tend to exaggerate action.

I wanted to give Lucy's mom some personality quirks—in the inks I added some stuff around her to indicate an obsession with birds.

Insector was so much fun to draw, and this scene was really wild and surreal.

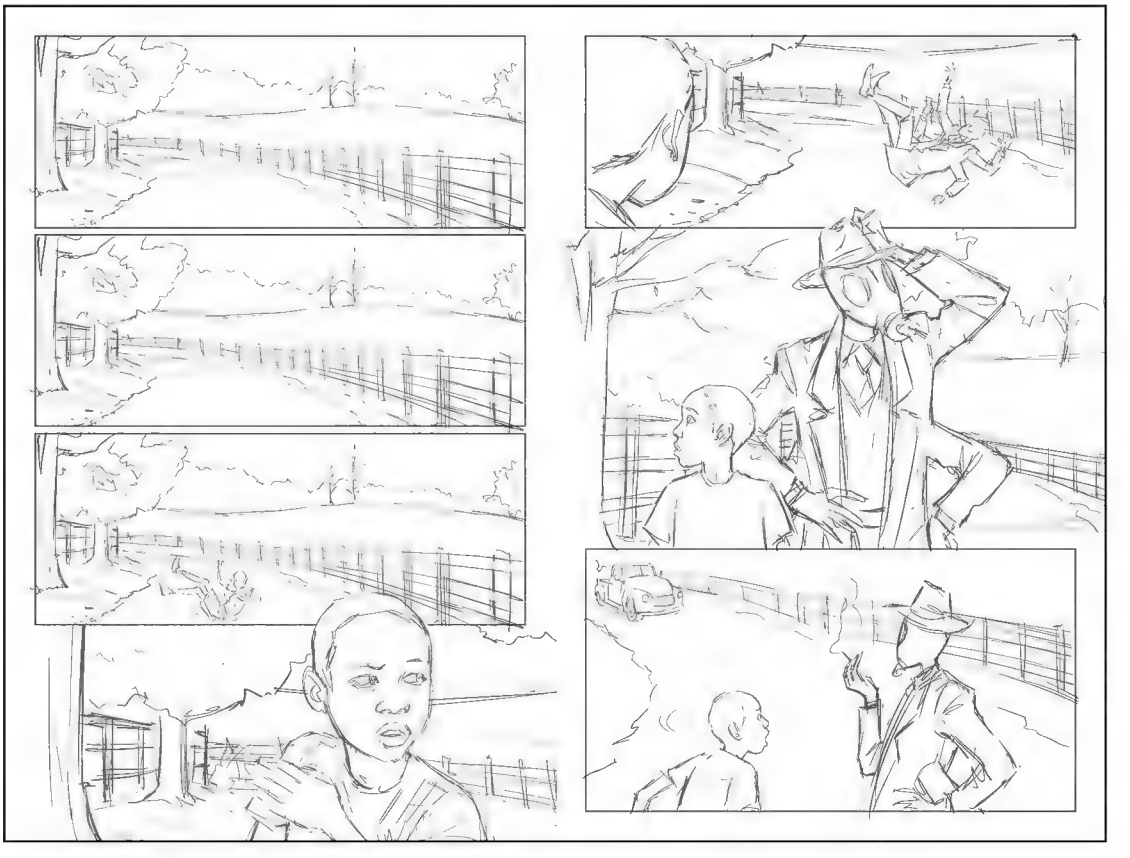


I love trying to nail down emotions, so the panel with the closeup of Doc and Skulldigger was a fun challenge. I really enjoyed their relationship in this series.

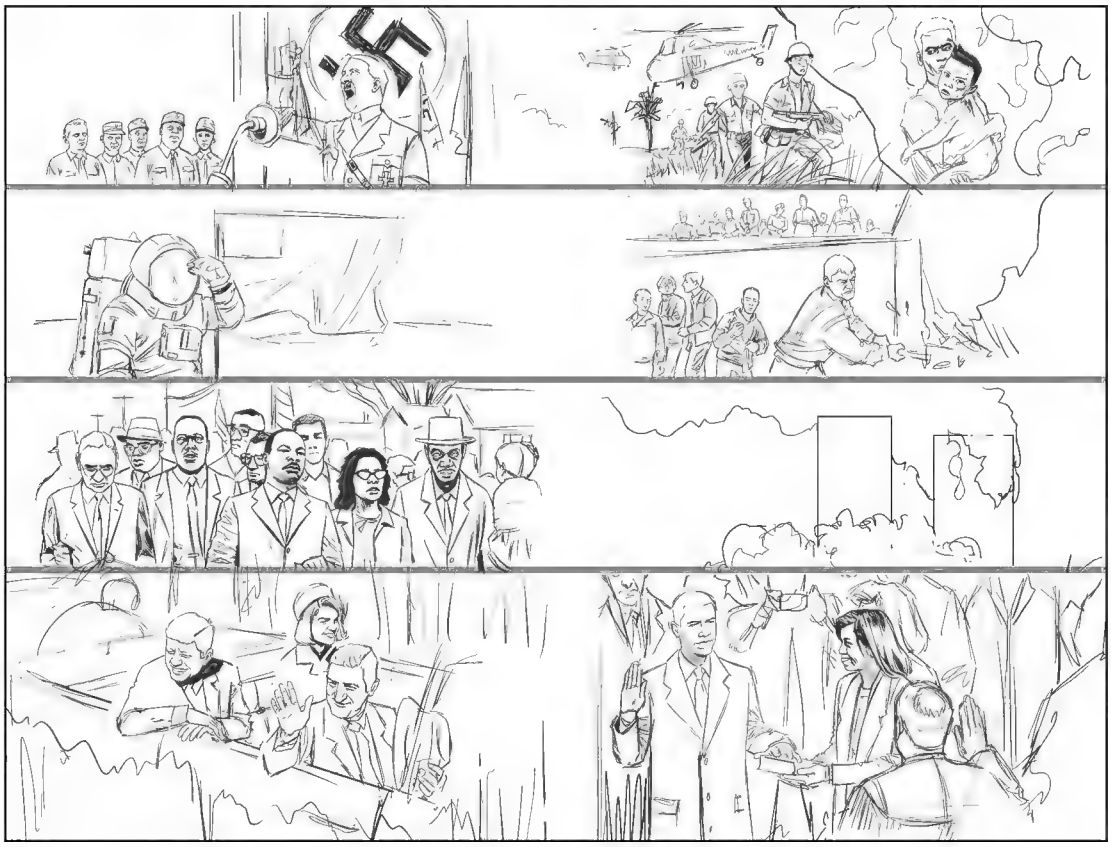


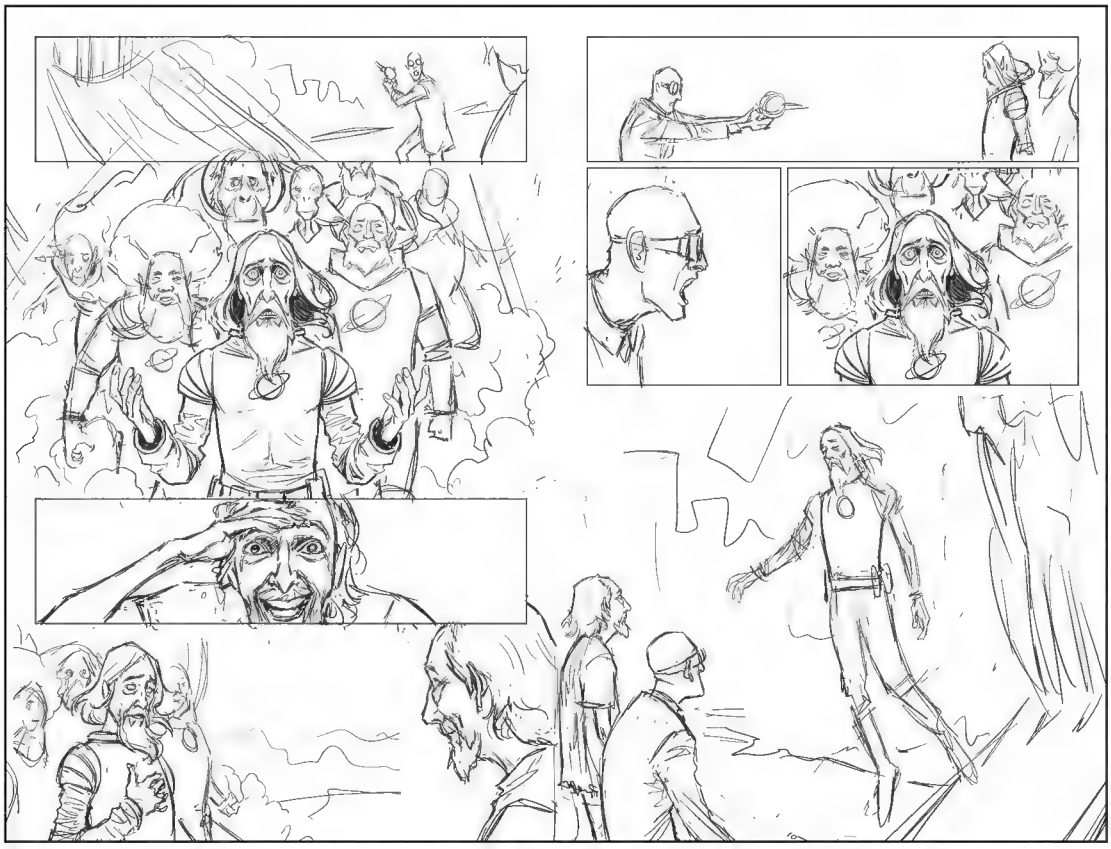
I wanted to show an embrace on this page between Lucy and her mom that only happens between people who know each other better than anyone else does.

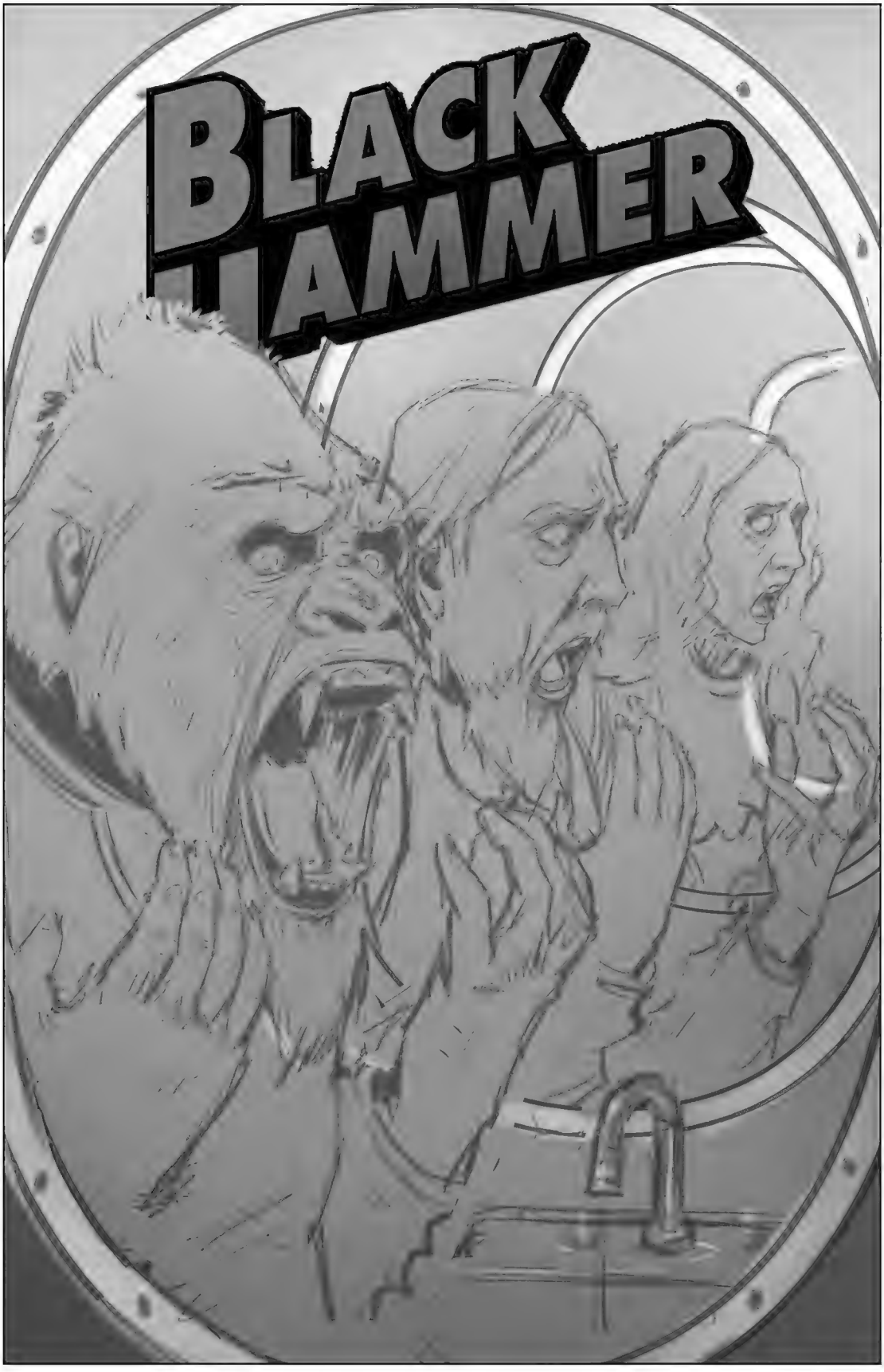
Lucy sending her dad flying was a really fun panel. Also, I did the dreaded repeating panel bit for the dirt road scene, but hey, it can be real effective!



This was a particularly difficult (and dark) spread and took me longer than I care to admit. That said, I do love how the story broke into our world.






BLACK HAMMER

JEFF LEMIRE is the award winning, *New York Times*–bestselling author of such graphic novels as *Essex County*, *Sweet Tooth*, and *Underwater Welder*, and cocreator of *Descender* with Dustin Nguyen, *Black Hammer* with Dean Ormston, *Plutona* with Emi Lenox, and *Gideon Falls* with Andrea Sorrentino.

Many of Jeff's books are in active development for Film or TV, including *Essex County*, *Underwater Welder*, *Plutona*, *Gideon Falls*, *Descender*, *Family Tree*, and the *Black Hammer* universe at Legendary Entertainment with Lemire attached as screenwriter and executive producer.

Lemire's *Sweet Tooth* is currently being adapted into a Netflix series produced by Robert Downey Jr., set to be released in early 2021.

He lives in Toronto, Canada with his wife and son and their troublesome pug, Lola.

DEAN ORMSTON is a British illustrator who entered comics with *Judge Dredd Megazine* and *2000 AD* before moving onto work with Vertigo on *Sandman* with Neil Gaiman, *Lucifer* and *The Unwritten* with Mike Carey, *The Eaters* with Peter Milligan, *House of Secrets* with Steven T. Seagle, *Book of Magic* and *Bodies* with Si Spencer, and *Northlanders* with Brian Wood. He is currently working on his Eisner Award–winning series *Black Hammer* with Jeff Lemire.

THE EISNER AWARD–WINNING SUPERHERO SAGA RETURNS IN THIS STORY PICKING UP YEARS LATER WITH NEW SERIES ARTISTS CAITLIN YARSKY, MALACHI WARD, AND MATTHEW SHEEAN.

Years after Black Hammer and the rest of Spiral City's greatest heroes seemingly died defeating the cosmic despot known as Anti-God, Lucy Weber, the daughter of Black Hammer, took up his mantle and carried on the legacy of her father.

Years after that, Lucy, and the world, have moved on. Living in the suburbs of Spiral City, Lucy is married and has children. But all is not blissful. Her marriage is falling apart, her job has reached a dead end, and for mysterious reasons, she hasn't picked up the hammer in years. But, as her domestic life begins to crumble, the secrets of the last twenty years, and the reasons Lucy really gave up being Black Hammer, begin to resurface, threatening her family, and the peace she has tried hard to find for herself.

Collects *Black Hammer Reborn* #1–#12 in a deluxe, oversized hardcover format with a new cover, sketchbook extras, and more!

10/10 —DC COMICS NEWS

10/10 —BUT WHY THO?

9.2/10 —THE SUPER POWERED FANCAST

9/10 —COMICBOOK.COM

9/10 —MULTIVERSITY COMICS

DARK HORSE BOOKS

DR.VINK

1,000 RIPS AND COUNTING!

LAST TIME I DID ONE OF THESE WAS WITH MY 250TH RIP
AND EVEN THEN I THOUGHT THAT WAS A LOT OF RIPS

ANYWAY, HAPPY TO DO MY SMALL PART IN HELPING PEOPLE READ MORE COMICS!

IF YOU WANT TO HELP ME HELP OTHERS, AND GET MORE COMICS SCANNED/RIPPED
CHECK OUT MY PAGE AT LINKTR.EE/DRVINK

AND SINCE SOME 4CHANNERS GET TRIGGERED BY MY "CASHAPP BEGGING" HERE'S TWO QR CODES LOL

BUY ME PIZZA?

CASHAPP
$DOCTORVINK

SO YOU JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH *GORE*, EH, KIDDIES? NOT ENOUGH *TERROR*, NOT ENOUGH *HORROR*? WELL, HERE'S A *REPULSIVE* LITTLE GEM THAT SHOULD KEEP EVEN *YOU* SATIATED! IT'S A *DRUNKEN* DRAMA WE CALL...

BOTTOMS UP

DIGITAL COMICS PRESERVATION

RIPPING
SCANNING
ARCHIVING COMICS

WHY? — BECAUSE I'M THE DEVIL'S ALLY, THAT'S WHY! HE, AND THE REST OF THESE LITTLE MONSTERS ARE MY FRIENDS! YOU UNDERSTAND, FRIENO?
HE-HE-
HE

IF YOU LIKE IT
AND HAVE THE MEANS TO DO SO
PURCHASE A PHYSICAL COPY
HELP YOUR LOCAL COMIC BOOK SHOPS!

READ MORE COMICS